

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2018

Statistical Report



MATSEC
Università ta' Malta

FOREWORD

The year 2019 happens to be the 25th anniversary of the original publication of the Matriculation Certificate examination regulations. These regulations were based on the idea, expressed in a 1974 paper by Fr Peter Serracino Inglott, that a student who is eligible to join a course at university should demonstrate satisfactory achievement in three areas. Firstly, the attainment of a general level of education; secondly, a somewhat advanced knowledge of the areas relevant to the course that the student would like to join; and thirdly, an adequate development of the personality, including the ability to make value-judgements. The first area was intended to include mastery of linguistic tools in English, Maltese and Mathematics, with the latter being understood not as an empirical science but as the 'language' of all empirical sciences. Also included in this area were knowledge of a foreign culture and an empirical science. The second area was to be covered by the study of Advanced level subjects related to the area of higher studies. The third area was to include a subject such as philosophy, ethics, psychology, politics, or theory of knowledge that develops the ability to make value judgements.

Twenty years later these ideas were put into practice with many compromises resulting in the Matriculation Certificate Examination Regulations published in 1994. The mastery of linguistic tools of the first area ended as an obligatory choice of one of ten languages listed in Group 1, obviously not including the 'language' of mathematics. Knowledge of an empirical science was covered by the obligatory choice of a subject from six science subjects in Group 3. However, knowledge of a foreign culture was only partly covered if a student chose a foreign language from Group 1. On the other hand, the area of advanced study of subjects related to the course of higher studies was adequately covered by the regulations. Development of the ability to make value judgements was covered by the obligatory study of Systems of Knowledge and the obligation to choose a humanities subject from Group 2, which also included commercial subjects. These regulations have served us for twenty-five years, with some modifications but with the maintenance of the overall general structure and subject choice.

In the last few years, discussions have been taking place on how the Matriculation Certificate examination can be restructured to serve the new socio-economic needs of Maltese society within a European and global context. Maybe the questions we need to ask in this discussion are whether the idea of the knowledge and abilities expected of a matriculated student has changed since 1974 and, if so, how the structure and regulations of the Matriculation Certificate need to change. For example, it is still felt that matriculated students need to show more proficiency in English, Maltese and the 'language' of Mathematics. Furthermore, with Malta's accession to the EU, knowledge of foreign cultures has become more important; however, this has declined as shown by the trend in the number of examination registrations for foreign languages over the years. Besides the need to address these systemic weaknesses, one must not forget that since 1994, and even more so since 1974, there have been enormous advances in technology which have developed new tools, some which can be described as 'linguistic', and which matriculated students are expected to master. This raises the question of what we understand by 'linguistic' tools in the modern age and what level of attainment in these tools do we expect from matriculated students. The statistics in the present report and the evident trends in previous reports should provide useful data on which to base decisions about the way forward.

When going through the report, it is important to acknowledge that it depends on the hard work of the staff of the MATSEC Support Unit under the direction of Dario Pirota to ensure the smooth management of the examinations with the valuable collaboration of the Department of Examinations. The actual production of the report was in the able hands of Gilbert Zahra – who authored and formatted the report, and coordinated the work – and Margaret Borg, Leander Borg, Lara Sciberras, Ramon Grech and Sarah Grech who aided in the compilation and checking of the data and other matters related to this report.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADSC – Access - Disability Support Committee (at the University of Malta)

AM – Advanced Matriculation

IM – Intermediate Matriculation

EAA – Examination Access Arrangement

MATSEC – Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate

MQF – Malta Qualifications Framework

SBA – School Based Assessment (assessment used to evaluate candidate learning which is performed during their course and can be set by teachers, schools or the MATSEC Examinations Board depending on the case)

SEC – Secondary Education Certificate

SEC IIA – SEC Paper IIA option

SEC IIB – SEC Paper IIB option

UM – Università ta' Malta

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports on the Matriculation Examination session of 2018. The registrations and results of all candidates and of candidates of the 2000 cohort who turned 18 years of age in 2018 are included as separate subgroups. This report gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration and results data of the examination sessions held in May-June (first session) and September (second session). It also presents some statistics from previous sessions to indicate some trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate examinations were introduced in the Maltese Islands.

The 2018 session is the sixth session since the change in regulations in 2012. As less candidates are registering for the first session while more candidates are registering for the second session, this year, 3,805 (1,580 males and 2,225 females) candidates registered for the first examination session while 2,810 (1,204 males and 1,606 females) candidates registered for the second examination session. In the second session there were 1,094 candidates (38.9%) who used this session as their first attempt of 2018. These consisted of 466 males and 628 females. There were also other candidates who did not sit for an examination in the 2018 first session but had sat for examinations in a previous session. **In total, there were 4,899 individual registrations for matriculation examinations in 2018.**

This year, **106 (55 males and 51 females) candidates applied for Examination Access Arrangements (EAAs)** to access the first session of Matriculation examinations. Although fewer candidates applied for EAAs in 2018 compared to 2017, the values are equivalent when seen as percentages of the total number of registrations for the session. In fact, 2.8% of first session candidates registered for EAAs with a notable difference between males and females (3.5% of males and 2.3% of females). There were eight new registrations for EAA in the second session.

In the first session, the largest number of registrations for both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, 58.3% and 59.4% respectively, belonged to the 2000 cohort. This is the cohort that turned eighteen years of age in 2018. There were 4,255 children born in 2000 (2,126 males and 2,129 females) in the Maltese Islands. This means that 43.1% of the 18-year-old cohort born in 2000 (34.7% of males and 51.5% of females) registered for Advanced Level examinations while 44.0% (35.7% of males and 52.4% of females) registered for Intermediate Level examinations in the first session of 2018. This means that **this year more than half of females born 18-years ago sat for Matriculation examinations at Advanced and Intermediate level, further increasing the gap between males and females in this regard.**

One can note that while the number of first session registrations has decreased along with a decreasing population of the cohort, second session registrations have increased. This is possible since the 2012 regulations establish that the second session of examinations is a new and separate session from the first session. In the second session, while the majority of registrations for AM subjects were from the 2000 cohort, **the number of 17-year-olds sitting for the IM level examinations was much higher than that of 18-year-olds.** Thus, it seems that the main aim of the second session has changed from a supplementary session to one allowing candidates to get subjects "out of the way" as reported in MATSEC 2017 candidate feedback report. In the second session, all subjects except for Greek and Latin had registrations at IM level. At AM level, all subjects except for Greek, Latin, Engineering Drawing, Graphical Communication, Applied Maths, Music and Theatre and Performance had registrations.

This is the second statistical report to include a section illustrating trends in subject registrations. This section suggests that the onset of new subjects at IM level in 2013 has had an

effect on the number of registrations of other subjects, within the same group and not. The popularity of some subjects, such as AM Italian, Computing, Art and Information Technology has been gradually decreasing along the years. This year, there was a notable increase in candidates opting for IM English, but this was coupled by a decrease in the number of candidates registering for AM English.

The most popular subjects at AM level were English (749 candidates) and Maltese (548 candidates) from Group 1; Marketing (427 candidates) and Accounting (453 candidates) from Group 2; and Computing (145 candidates) and Home Economics & Human Ecology (124 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in Group 3 subjects, with the exception of Applied Mathematics, are of a comparable magnitude. Although Biology (621 candidates) has the largest number of registrations, Pure Mathematics (490), Chemistry (464), and Physics (366) have similar number of candidates. At IM level, the popularity of Psychology (811), English (890 candidates), and IT (145 candidates) is notable in their respective groups. Other popular IM choices include Maltese (219 candidates) from Group 1; Marketing (306) and Philosophy (291 candidates) from Group 2; Pure Mathematics (528 candidates) and Physics (545 candidates) from Group 3; and Physical Education (129 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in most subjects, as the Matriculation Certificate itself, are marked by a higher percentage of female candidates.

At Advanced level, for the first session, when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the range of pass rates in the different subjects varied from over 90% to less than 30%. However, these extremes are reserved for small entry subjects (AM Engineering Drawing and Russian, and Applied Mathematics). At Intermediate level, when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the same range of pass rates is observed. Less than 30% of candidates obtained Grades A-E in IM Biology.

In 2018, 1,193 candidates (466 males and 727 females) obtained the Matriculation Certificate following the first session while 369 candidates (151 males and 218 females) did so after the second session. Thus, **a total of 1,562 candidates were awarded the Matriculation Certificate in 2018**. These consisted of 1,248 (484 males and 764 females) candidates from the 2000 cohort. This means that 29.3% (22.8% males and 35.9% females) of the children of that cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2018. A total of 209 candidates (91 males and 118 females) from the 1999 cohort obtained the Matriculation Certificate. These are likely to be candidates who have repeated or missed an academic year. Interestingly, four 17-year-old candidates (one male and three females) of the 2001 cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2018.

Half the examination registration fees for 2018 for all candidates were covered by the State. This was expected to increase the number of registrations for examinations and revision of papers and increase the rate of absenteeism in examinations. However, no increase in the actual number of candidates was noted as 5,185 candidates registered for MC examinations in 2017. **Absentees for the first session increased from 7.1% (AM) and 5.4% (IM) in 2017 to 7.4% (AM) and 6.2% (IM) in 2018**. Absentees for the second session increased from 8.2% (AM) and 5.0% (IM) in 2017 to 11.6% (AM) and 8.0% (IM) in 2018.

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 10.3% for subjects at Advanced Level and 7.4% for subjects at Intermediate Level in the first session, while in the second session they averaged 6.6% and 6.9% for Advanced and Intermediate Level respectively. The values reported in 2017 were 6.9%, 3.1%, 8.2%, and 5.9%. **These percentages confirm that requests for revision of papers have increased, especially following the first session**. Of these, 2.1%, 6.7%, 0%, and 3.6% respectively had their grade revised. The increasing number of registration for the second session, increasing absentees, and increasing requests for revision of papers are making these sessions of examinations, especially the second session, ever more cumbersome.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.01. Background

The Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate (MATSEC) Examinations Board was set up in 1991. It is responsible for external examinations at two levels: (a) the Matriculation examinations which have replaced the GCE A-levels and (b) the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) examinations which have replaced the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O-level) offered by English examination boards. The MATSEC Examinations Board offers examinations at Advanced (AM) and Intermediate Matriculation (IM) levels. Some candidates may sit for an examination in single subjects while other candidates may sit for several subjects in order to qualify for the Matriculation Certificate.

The Matriculation Certificate is based on the International Baccalaureate model that maintains that students develop into more mature individuals if their studies cover both the areas of the Humanities and the Sciences. In the Matriculation Certificate qualification, subjects are divided into four groups and students must choose one subject from each of Groups 1, 2, and 3 and any other two subjects. This structure ensures that candidates choose subjects from both the Humanities and the Sciences areas. In addition, all students are obliged to sit for Systems of Knowledge, a pass in which is obligatory in order to be awarded the certificate. In this system of examinations, students normally study two subjects at Advanced level and another four at Intermediate level, including Systems of Knowledge. Some students may choose to sit for a different mix of Advanced and Intermediate examinations and this option is covered in the regulations. Although any of the subjects offered may be chosen, there are some restrictions laid out in the regulations for the award of the Matriculation Certificate (<http://www.um.edu.mt/matsec/regulations>).

The Matriculation Certificate requirements are intended to provide an opportunity for all students finishing post-secondary school education to obtain external certification for the subjects studied at school. The Matriculation Certificate is the general entry requirement into the University of Malta. In addition, certain Faculties have special course requirements in terms of the subjects needed for admission and the grades that are acceptable for further studies in particular areas. The Matriculation Certificate can be obtained over a period of five years.

The first session of the examinations is held in May-June while a second session is held in September. The regulations of these examinations were first published in 1994, and candidates took the examinations for the first time in 1997. These regulations were amended in 2012 to give candidates the opportunity to qualify for the Matriculation Certificate over a period of five years but the other criteria were not changed. These criteria require candidates to obtain a pass in at least one of the subjects offered in each of Groups 1, 2, and 3 and Systems of Knowledge and gain at least 44 grade points. The Certificate is issued once and it is not graded. The results of the individual subjects are graded A to E, with Grade A being the highest grade. Grade points are awarded as shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Grade Points Awarded per Grade

Grade	Grade Points Awarded	
	Advanced Level	Intermediate Level
A	30	10
B	24	8
C	18	6
D	12	4
E	6	2

In the second session, candidates are allowed to sit for one subject at Advanced level, up to a maximum of four subjects at Intermediate level – one from each of Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 – and Systems of Knowledge. The same restrictions apply to candidates irrespective of whether they are re-sitting for the examinations or sitting for them for the first time in the second session.

The present document reports on the Matriculation examinations which took place in 2018. The report first gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration data and results of both the first and second sessions. It also presents general statistics of the sessions which have taken place between 1998 and 2018 to indicate trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations was introduced in the Maltese islands.

1.02. Administrative Information

The following subjects were offered for examination:

Accounting	Applied Mathematics	Arabic
Art	Biology	Chemistry
Classical Studies*	Computing	Economics
Engineering	Graphical	Engineering Drawing/ Graphical
Drawing**	Communication**	Communication*
English	Environmental	French
	Science*	
Geography	German	Greek
History	Home Economics	Information Technology
Italian	Latin	Maltese
Marketing	Music	Physical Education
Philosophy	Physics	Psychology*
Pure Mathematics	Religious Knowledge	Russian
Sociology	Spanish	Systems of Knowledge*
Theatre and Performance		
*Offered at Intermediate Level only		
**Offered at Advanced Level only		

The subjects are grouped as follows:

Group	Subjects
1	Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Maltese, Russian, and Spanish.
2	Accounting, Classical Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Knowledge, and Sociology.
3	Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, and Pure Mathematics.
4	Art, Computing, Engineering Drawing, Engineering Drawing / Graphical Communication, Graphical Communication, Home Economics & Human Ecology, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education, and Theatre and Performance.
	Systems of Knowledge

The timetable for both the first and second sessions was issued in mid-October 2017 (a copy is available in Appendix A). Registration for the first session of examinations took place between the 6th and 14th November 2017. Late applications were received between the 8th and 10th January 2018. All applications were received at the Department of Examinations, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo. They were processed by the Examinations Department, Floriana. Registration for the second session was online and took place between the 19th and the 26th July 2018. Late applications were received on the 31st July and 1st August 2018. Applications for the second session were received and processed by the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

A total of 3,807 candidates (1,580 males and 2,227 females) registered for the First session of Matriculation examinations of 2018. Of these, 777 (20.4%) candidates registered for enough examinations to obtain the Matriculation Certificate following the First session.

A total of 2,811 candidates (1,204 males and 1,607 females) sat for the Second session of Matriculation examinations of 2018. Of these, 1,717 (61.1%) candidates had sat for one or more examinations in the First session while 1,094 (38.9%) candidates used the Second session of 2018 as their first sit for the year. Table 1.2 below shows the number of subject registrations for the Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examinations in 2018.

Table 1.2: Registrations for Matriculation Examinations 2018

Session	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
First	1287	1859	3146	1328	1828	3156
Second	521	667	1188	971	1353	2324

The written examinations took place between 25th April and 2nd June 2018 for the first session. The final examination for the First session took place on the 14th June 2018 and results were sent via sms and result slips on the 13th July 2017. In this session, there were 3,792 (99.6%) of the Matriculation Examination candidates who applied to receive their results by sms. For the second session, written examinations took place between 30th

August and 6th September 2018. Results were sent on the 28th September by post and, for the 2,698 (96.0%) candidates who applied for the service, by sms.

Candidates were given the option to receive results by registered mail. Of the 2018 First and Second session candidates, 1,437 (37.7%) and 2,221 (79.0%) candidates applied for this option respectively.

1.03. Requests for Examination Access Arrangements

Requests for Examination Access Arrangements (EAAs) during MATSEC examinations were received during the period of registration. Candidates were required to fill in a special form available to download from the MATSEC website. This year, there were 106 applicants were granted EAAs for the first session after being considered by the Access Disability Support Committee of the University of Malta. Besides these candidates, for the second session, there were eight new requests for EAAs.

1.04. The Examination Centres

The administration of the examinations in the different centres, including the running of the centres and invigilation during examinations, is the responsibility of the Examinations Department, Floriana.

A total of 11 centres were used for the first session. These are listed below. Apart from these venues, examinations were held in Copenhagen (Denmark) and Kranj (Slovenia).

- Dar Kenn Għal Saħħtek
- Examinations Department, Floriana
- G F Abela Junior College
- Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School
- Mater Dei Hospital
- St Aloysius' College 6th Form
- St Ġorġ Preca College Girls Secondary Blata l-Bajda
- St Thomas More College Boys Secondary School Ħamrun (Samra)
- University of Malta
- Gozo Visual and Performing Arts School
- Gozo Examinations Centre

A total of 10 centres were used for the second session with no examinations being held abroad for this session. These are shown below.

- University of Malta
- Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School
- G F Abela Junior College
- St Theresa College Middle School, Ta' Paris
- St Aloysius College
- St Nicholas College Secondary School, Dingli
- Mater Dei Hospital
- Gozo Examinations Centre
- Ministry for Gozo

1.05. Oral Examinations

Tables 1.3 and 1.4 show the dates of the oral examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels.

Table 1.3: Oral Examinations – Advanced Level

Subject	Dates
Arabic	23 April
English	20, 21, 22, 26, 27 March
French	05 April
German	23 April
Italian	21 April
Maltese	16 - 19 April
Music	01 June
Russian	23 April
Spanish	23 April

Table 1.4: Oral Examinations – Intermediate Level

Subject	Dates
Arabic	24 April
English	6, 9, 10, 11, 12 April
French	07 April
German	24 April
Italian	07 April
Maltese	14 April
Russian	24 April
Spanish	24 April

Oral examinations were held at St Aloysius College and the University of Malta for the first session and at St Theresa College Middle School and Mater Dei Hospital for the second session in Malta. Gozitan candidates had their oral examinations at the Examinations Centre, Victoria for both sessions.

Teachers were recruited for the oral examinations on the basis of the recommendation of the Chairperson of the respective subjects. Tables 1.5 and 1.6 show the numbers of examiners involved in the different subjects at the two levels.

Table 1.5: Examiners Used for Orals of Advanced Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
Arabic	1	0	1
English	26	4	30
French	4	1	5
German	3	1	4
Italian	6	1	7
Maltese	9	3	12
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	3	1	4
Total	53	11	64

Table 1.6: Examiners Used for Orals of Intermediate Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
Arabic	1	0	1
English	27	4	31
French	4	1	5
German	4	1	5
Italian	4	1	5
Maltese	7	2	9
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	2	1	3
Total	50	10	60

1.06. Coursework

There were five subjects at Advanced Level with a coursework component in 2018. These were: Art, Computing, Geography, Home Economics & Human Ecology, and Information Technology. Four subjects had a coursework component at Intermediate Level in 2018. These were: Art, Computing, Information Technology, and Systems of Knowledge. AM Biology and AM and IM Theatre and Performance have an ongoing assessment component which candidates present before the practical examination for the subject.

The coursework of private candidates for both Advanced and Intermediate Level subjects was to be presented to the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta or the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by the 16th March 2018 for the first session and by the 13th August for the second session.

Private candidates and a sample of school candidates were called for an interview in relation to the work presented for the coursework component of the subjects under consideration.

1.07. Practical Examinations

Practical examinations at Advanced Level were held in the following subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering Drawing (CAD), Music, Physics, Graphical Communication (CAD), and, for the first time, Theatre and Performance Studies. The CAD assessment is formed of three CAD practical exercises centrally set by the MATSEC Examinations Board and performed by candidates in the school they attend as on-going SBA. Table 1.7 shows the dates of these examinations and the examination centres used for the first session. Table

1.8 shows the data for the second session for the subjects in which there were registrations (there were no registrations for AM Music and AM Theatre and Performance in the second session).

Table 1.7: Advanced Level Practical Examinations (First Session)

Subject	Dates	Examination Centres
Art	03-Jun	St. Aloysius College Birkirkara Gozo Examinations Centre
Biology	06-Jun	GF Abela Junior College Stella Maris College University of Malta Gozo College Boys Rabat
Chemistry	14-Jun	GF Abela Junior College Stella Maris College University of Malta Gozo College Boys Rabat
Music	28-May 30-May	University of Malta Visual and Performance Arts School
Physics	01-Jun	GF Abela Junior College Stella Maris College Gozo College Boys Rabat
CAD	22-Feb 24-May 25-Jan	GF Abela Junior College St Martin's Institute Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary Sir M.A Refalo Gozo
Theatre and Performance	05-Jun 06-Jun 12-Jun 11-Jun	Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary GF Abela Junior College St. Aloysius College Birkirkara MITP University of Malta

Table 1.8: Advanced Level Practical Examinations (Second Session)

Subject	Dates	Examination Centres
Art	04, 05-Sep	Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary Gozo Examinations Centre
Biology	30-Aug	University of Malta
Chemistry	30-Aug	GF Abela Junior College
Physics	30-Aug	GF Abela Junior College

Practical examinations at Intermediate level were held for Art, Physical Education, Music, and Theatre and Performance Studies. Table 1.9 shows the dates and examination centres for these examinations for the first session. Table 1.10 shows the data for the second session, in which there were no registrations for IM Theatre and Performance.

Table 1.9: Intermediate Level Practical Examinations (First Session)

Subject	Dates	Examination Centres
Art	03-Jun	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara Gozo Examinations Centre, Victoria
Physical Education	10, 17-Apr	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara
Music	31-May	University of Malta Visual and Performance Arts School
Theatre and Performance	08-Jun 05-Jun 06-Jun 04-Jun	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary GF Abela Junior College Sir M.A. Refalo 6th Form

Table 1.10: Intermediate Level Practical Examinations (Second Session)

Subject	Dates	Examination Centres
Art	01-Sep	Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary Gozo Examinations Centre, Victoria
Physical Education	30-Aug	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara
Music	07-Sep	Ministry for Gozo

1.08. Revision of Papers

Candidates who are not satisfied with the grade awarded to them in any subject may register for the service of a Revision of Papers. Information about the registration period for this service is posted to the candidates with their result slip. For each subject, an additional examiner is appointed to review the papers of the candidates who ask for a Revision of Papers. A brief report on the candidate's performance is written in each case. This is forwarded to the candidate. A fee of €40 per Intermediate Level subject and of €45 per Advanced Level subject is paid on registration. This fee is refundable in cases where the examiners' panel recommends a change in the original grade, which can only be an upgrade.

Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place between 19th and the 26th July 2018 at the MATSEC Building, University of Malta for the first session and on the 2nd and 3rd October 2018 for the second session. For Advanced Matriculation subjects, there were 559 registrations following the first session and 78 registrations following the second session. For Intermediate Matriculation subjects, there were 588 registrations for a revision of paper following the first session and 251 following the second session. These were accepted at the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

1.09. Examiners' Reports

For each subject, the Chairperson is required to write an Examiners' Report on the performance of the candidates in the examination. The information for this report is compiled from notes and comments made by the subject markers involved in the process. This report provides statistical data on the grades awarded and gives detailed feedback on the performance of the candidates. These reports have been posted on the MATSEC website.

2. FIRST SESSION REGISTRATIONS

The total number of candidates who registered for the 2018 first session of examinations is given in Table 2.1. Candidates born in 2000 are 18 years of age by the end of the examinations in 2018. As this was considered to be the modal age at which candidates sit for MC examinations, the number of registrations from this cohort is also given. In 2018, 51.0% of the candidates for the first session were 18-year-olds and 777 candidates (20.4%) sat for a combination of subjects which could qualify them for the Matriculation Certificate. Moreover, 543 (14.3%) of registrants were 17-year-olds.

Table 2.1: Total Number of Candidates Sitting for Matriculation Examinations

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	1580	2227	3807
2000 Cohort	787	1155	1942
2001 Cohort	225	318	543
Enough subjects for MC	346	431	777

Table 2.2 presents the number of registrations for the first session of Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations by year of birth and gender.

Table 2.2: First Session Registrations by Year of Birth and Gender

Year	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1996	82	180	262	26	69	95
1996	14	25	39	14	17	31
1997	37	53	90	28	36	64
1998	79	100	179	62	81	143
1999	282	295	577	238	252	490
2000	737	1099	1836	758	1117	1875
2001	55	107	162	199	256	455
2002	1	0	1	3	0	3
Total	1287	1859	3146	1328	1828	3156

The largest number of registrations for both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, 58.4% and 59.4% respectively, belonged to the 2000 cohort. This is the cohort that turned eighteen years of age in 2018. There were 4,255 children born in 2000

(2,126 males and 2,129 females) in the Maltese Islands¹. This means that 43.1% of the 18-year-old cohort born in 2000 (34.7% of males and 51.6% of females) registered for Advanced Level examinations while 44.1% (35.7% of males and 52.5% of females) registered for Intermediate Level examinations in 2018.

Table 2.2 indicates that, in both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, there were more registrations from females than males. At Advanced Level, 59.1% of registrations were from females while at Intermediate Level, 57.9% of registrations were from females. This suggests a growing disparity between males and females in this regard.

After the change in regulations in 2012, an increase in the candidates who sit for MC examinations at the age of 17 was noted. In the 2018 first session, there were 162 (5.1%) registrations for AM level subjects and 455 (14.4%) registrations for IM level subjects from the 2001 cohort. Moreover, there were three candidates aged 16 for the first session of 2018. Seven of the candidates sitting for Matriculation examinations in 2018 were more than 60 years old, with the oldest candidate being 73 years old.

Table 2.3 on the next page provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for the Matriculation examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects. The figures that follow present the data graphically for each group of subjects. Figures 2.1 to 2.4 present the numbers of male and female registrations per subject at Advanced (AM) level while Figures 2.5 to 2.8 present data for subjects at Intermediate (IM) level.

¹ Data obtained from the National Statistics Office and used as the best estimate of 18-year-olds in the year covered in the present report.

Table 2.3: Matriculation Examination First Session Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	183	270	453	41	31	72
Applied Maths	3	1	4	20	16	36
Arabic	2	3	5	2	2	4
Art	14	55	69	8	14	22
Biology	215	406	621	66	201	267
Chemistry	173	291	464	12	19	31
Classical Studies				11	30	41
Computing	112	33	145	51	15	66
Economics	84	77	161	42	25	67
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.				54	25	79
Engineering Drawing	0	1	1			
English	232	519	751	404	485	889
Environmental Science				156	262	418
French	11	42	53	21	65	86
Geography	21	24	45	45	53	98
German	6	29	35	16	23	39
Graphical Communication	13	4	17			
History	41	51	92	36	38	74
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	20	104	124	11	47	58
Information Technology	24	7	31	84	61	145
Italian	27	75	102	39	33	72
Maltese	163	386	549	85	134	219
Marketing	197	230	427	147	159	306
Music	5	6	11	0	1	1
Philosophy	43	55	98	128	164	292
Physical Education				70	59	129
Physics	239	127	366	248	297	545
Psychology				237	575	812
Pure Maths	328	162	490	242	287	529
Religious Knowledge	31	29	60	79	94	173
Russian	0	6	6	0	1	1
Sociology	45	152	197	76	152	228
Spanish	11	22	33	9	18	27
Systems Of Knowledge				848	1197	2045
Theatre And Performance	6	3	9	11	20	31

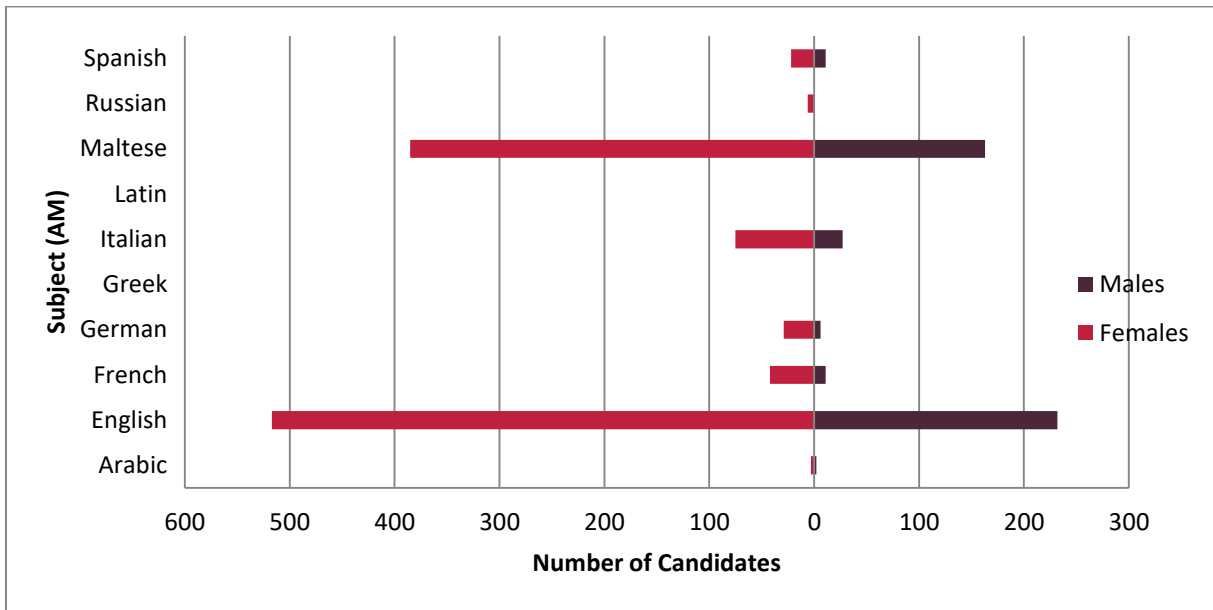


Figure 2.1: AM Registration by Gender: Group 1

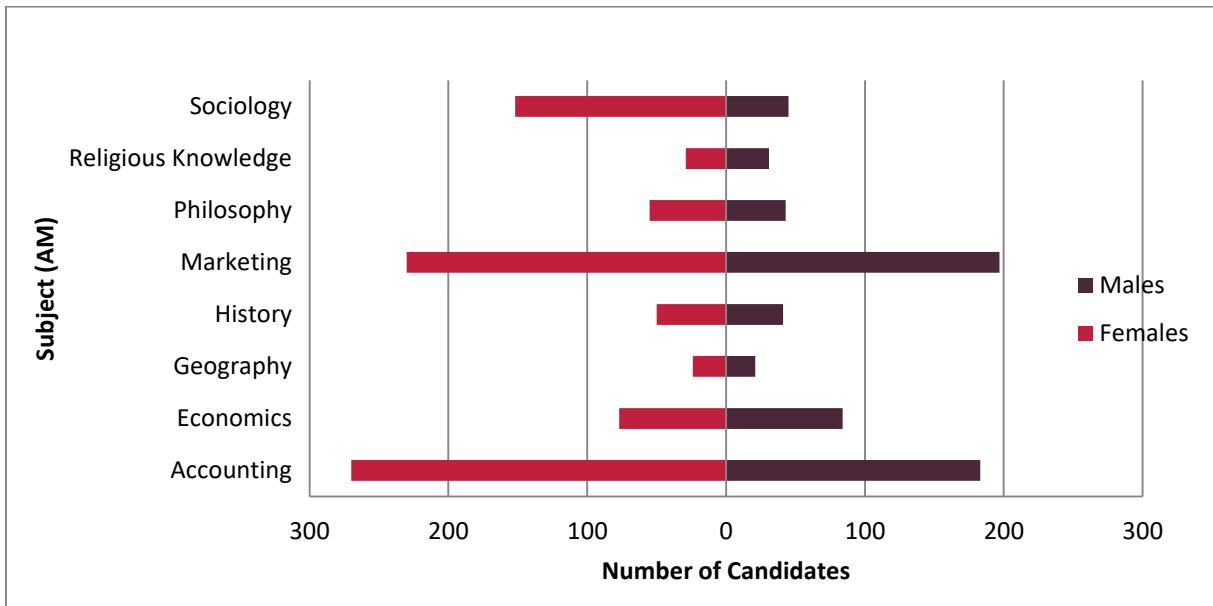


Figure 2.2: AM Registration by Gender: Group 2

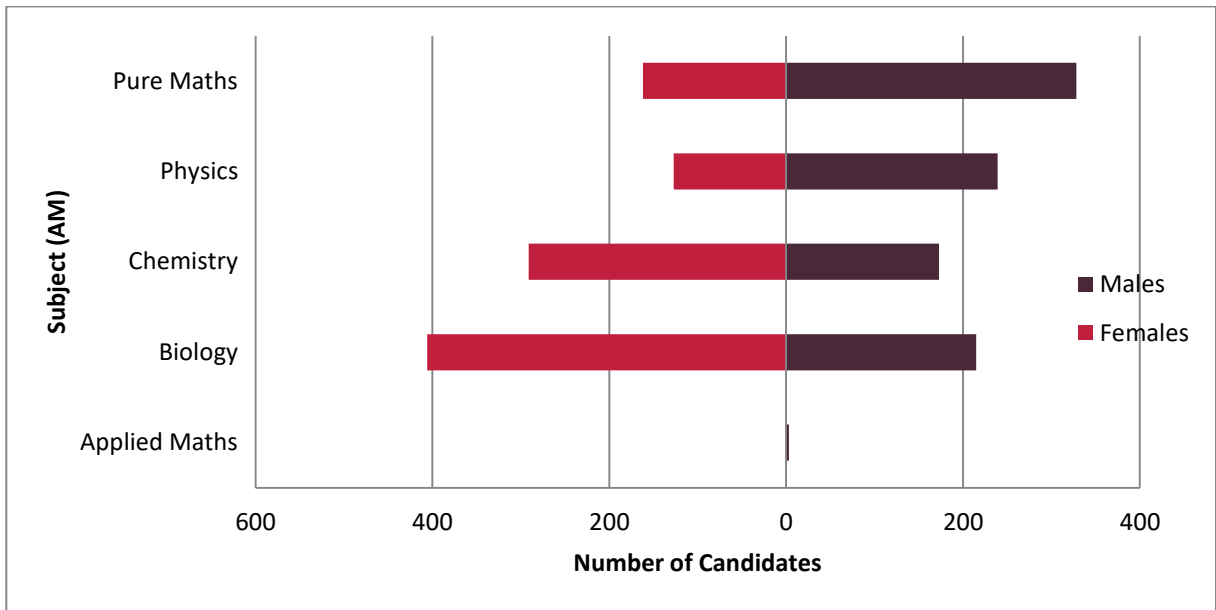


Figure 2.3: AM Registration by Gender: Group 3

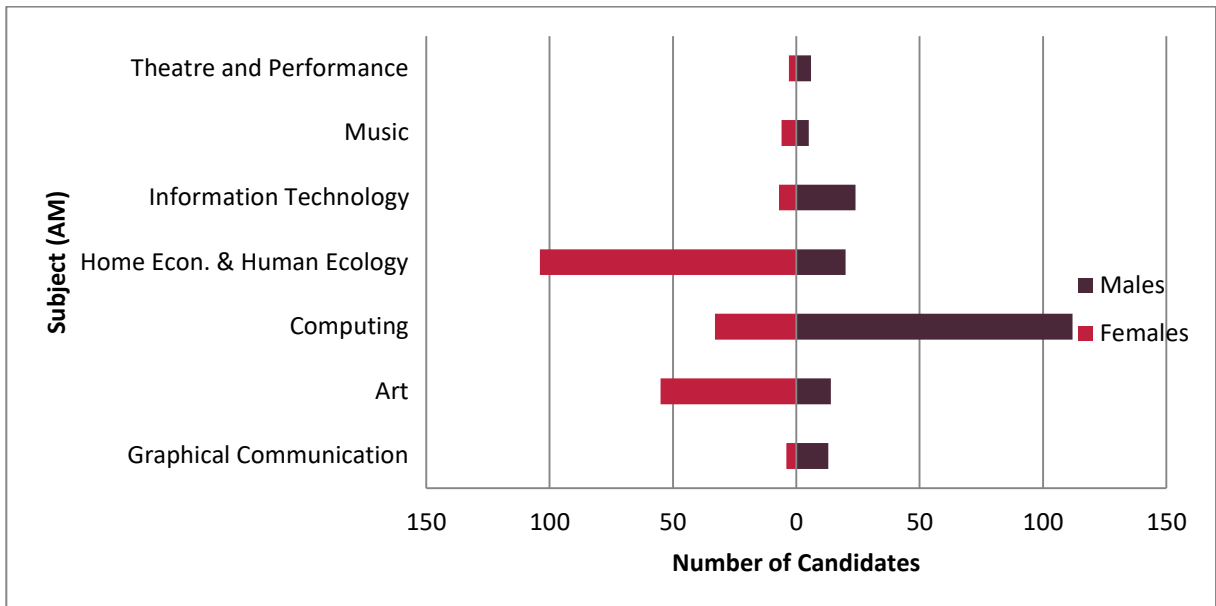


Figure 2.4: AM Registration by Gender: Group 4

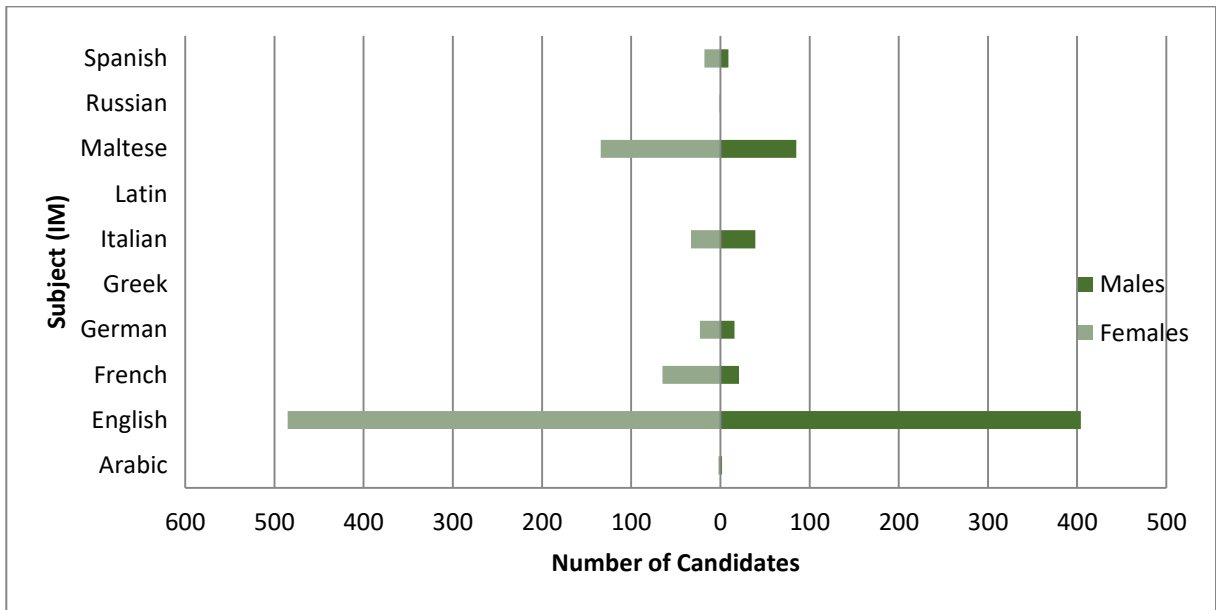


Figure 2.5: IM Registration by Gender: Group 1

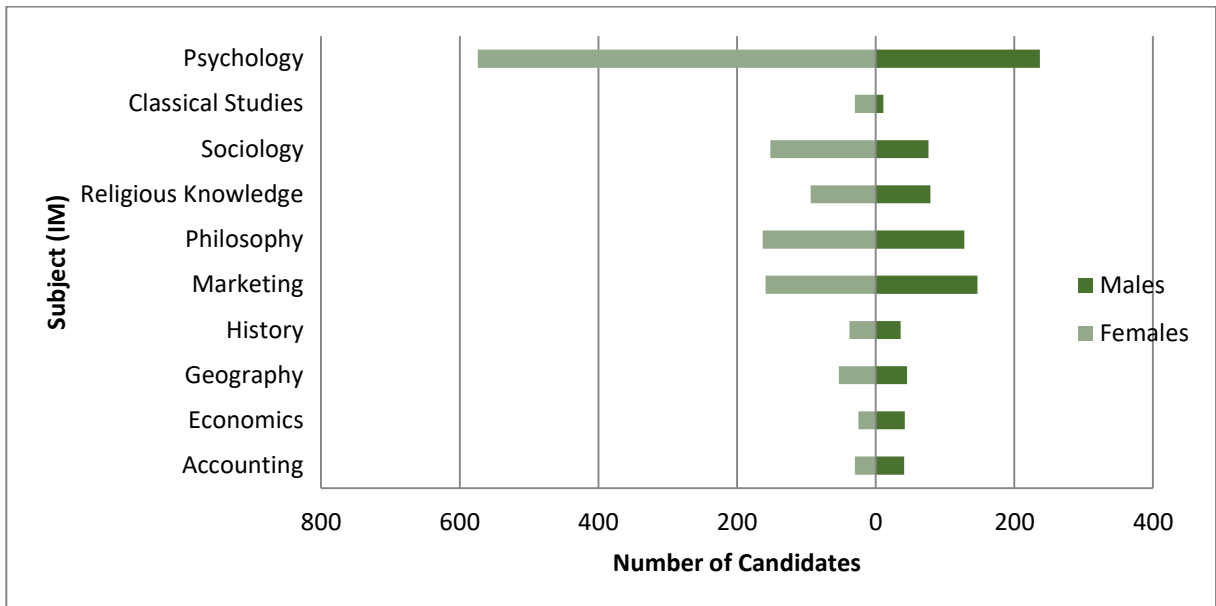


Figure 2.6: IM Registration by Gender: Group 2

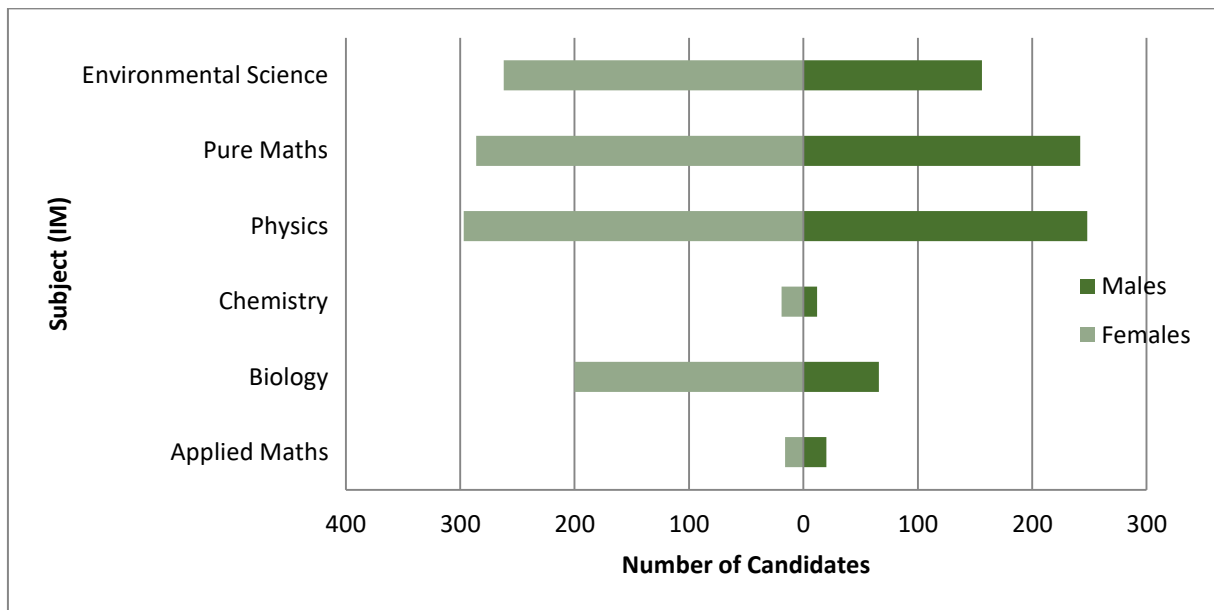


Figure 2.7: IM Registration by Gender: Group 3

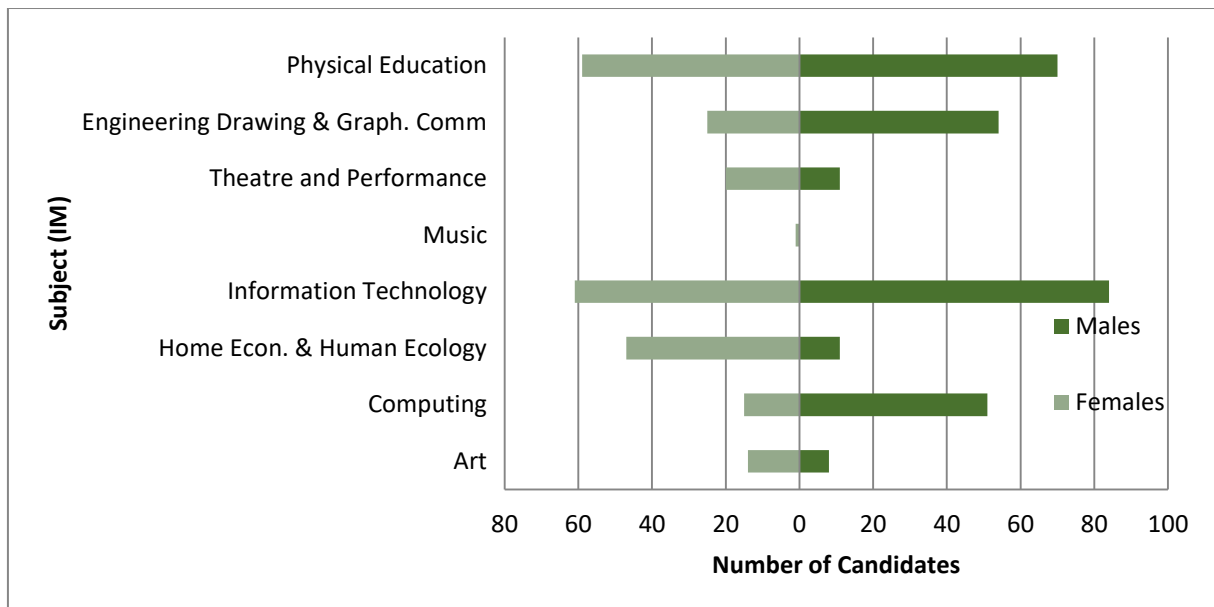


Figure 2.8: IM Registration by Gender: Group 4

The most popular subjects at AM level were English (751 candidates) and Maltese (549 candidates) from Group 1; Marketing (427 candidates) and Accounting (453 candidates) from Group 2; and Computing (145 candidates) and Home Economics & Human Ecology (124 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in Group 3 subjects are, with the exception of Applied Mathematics, of a comparable magnitude. Although Biology (621 candidates) has the largest number of registrations, Pure Mathematics (490), Chemistry (464), and Physics (366) have similar number of candidates. Only a few candidates register for Applied Mathematics, whether the subject is at AM or IM level.

At IM level, the popularity of Psychology (812), English (889 candidates), and IT (145 candidates) is notable in their respective groups. Other popular choices include Maltese (219 candidates) from Group 1; Marketing (306) and Philosophy (292 candidates) from Group 2; Pure Mathematics (529 candidates) and Physics (545 candidates) from Group 3; and Physical Education (129 candidates) from Group 4.

Most subjects are marked by a higher number of female candidates. This is true for both AM and IM level examinations, however, it is more visible in subjects such as Maltese, English, Psychology, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Sociology, and Art. Languages, which are grouped as Group 1, experience the largest gender disparity with 70.5% of candidates at AM level being female. AM Group 3 subjects experience the smallest gender disparity, with candidates being approximately equally split between males and females (49.3% males, 50.7% females).

More male candidates applied for some subjects including Computing, Pure Mathematics, Physical Education and Information Technology. In fact, Group 4 subjects at IM level is the only group of subjects with more male candidates (54.4% of registrations). Figures 2.9 and 2.10 below illustrate this information by presenting the numbers of male and female registrations per Group of subjects at Advanced (AM) and Intermediate (IM) levels respectively.

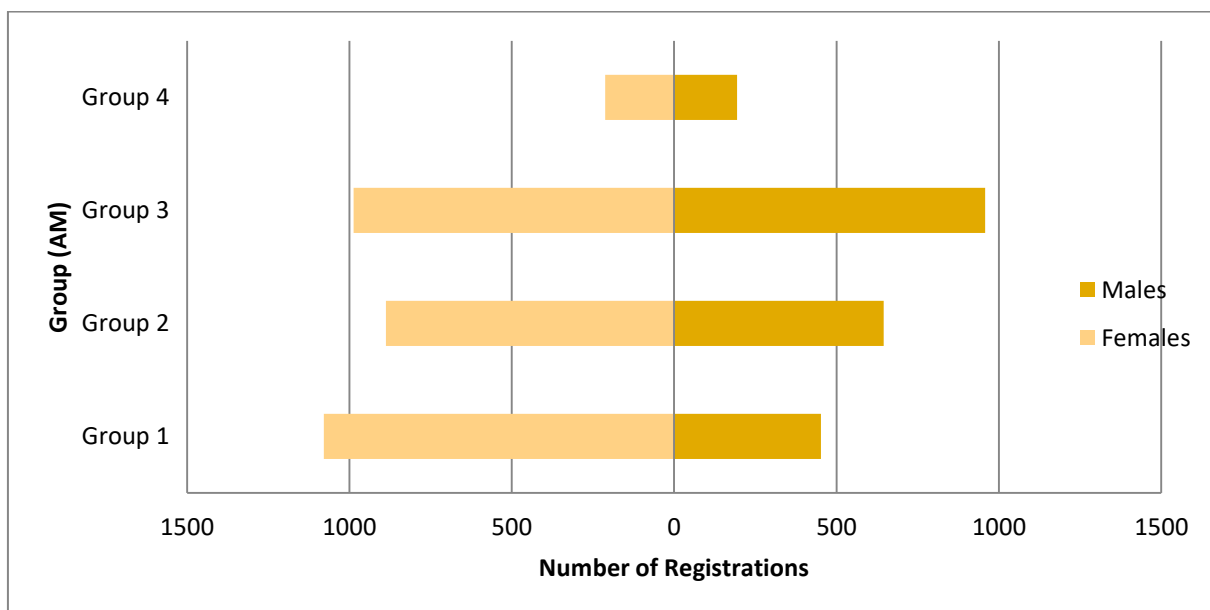


Figure 2.9: AM Registration per Group by Gender

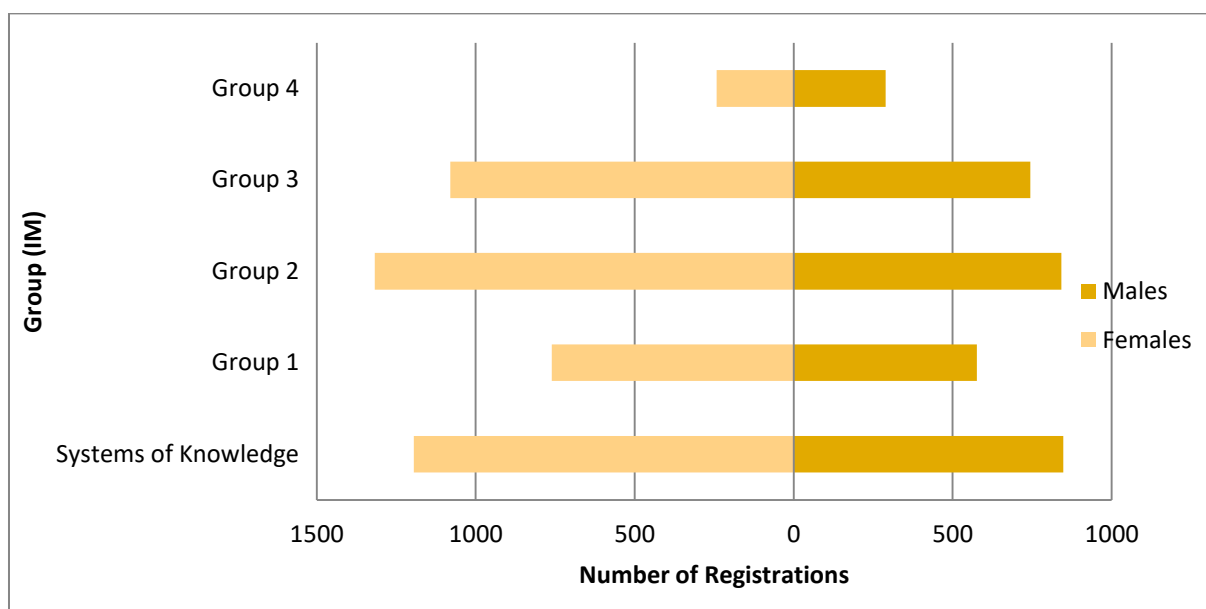


Figure 2.10: IM Registration per Group by Gender

Although the award of the Matriculation Certificate depends on passes in two subjects at Advanced Level, three at Intermediate Level, and Systems of Knowledge, a number of candidates do not sit for this number of examinations. Table 2.4 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for one to six subjects at Advanced Matriculation Level and at Intermediate Level in the different subjects, including Systems of Knowledge.

Table 2.4 shows that most candidates registered for two subjects at AM level. Roughly equal number of candidates registered for one, two and four subjects at IM level. A significant number of candidates registered for one Advanced Level examination only while 80 candidates attempted three Advanced Level examinations. Six candidates attempted four subjects at AM Level while 24 candidates registered for five IM Level subjects.

The biggest proportion of candidates (23.7%) sat for one subject, suggesting that most candidates are not aiming to obtain the Matriculation Certificate from this sit. In fact, only 19.9% of candidates registered for six subjects. A total of 38 candidates sat for a total of seven subjects at either AM or IM level.

Table 2.4: 2018 First Session Registrations by Number of Subjects, Level and Gender

Number of Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	351	614	965	358	453	811
2	911	1184	2095	339	471	810
3	24	56	80	265	427	692
4	1	5	6	361	458	819
5	0	0	0	5	19	24

This year there were 106 candidates who requested examination access arrangements (EAAs) at is level. Table 2.5 shows the presenting conditions of these candidates. This table is different than the ones presented in earlier reports as it stratifies registrations by gender. Although approximately equal numbers of male and female candidates register for EAAs, more males register for EAAs if these values are seen as percentages (3.5% of males as opposed to 2.3% of females).

It is important to point out that applications by candidates with disability were processed by the Access - Disability Support Committee of the University of Malta. This committee decides on appropriate arrangements to enable these candidates to access the examinations. In general, special arrangements included extra time and rest periods, large print, as well as special instructions to examiners of oral components, invigilators and markers.

Table 2.5: Number of Requests for Special Arrangements by Presenting Condition

Condition	Number of Candidates		
	Males	Females	Total
ADD/ADHD	7	4	11
Autism Spectrum Disorder	7	2	9
DCD/Dyspraxia	6	3	9
Hearing Impairment	3	4	7
Last minute Injuries	1	1	2
Medical Condition	7	8	15
Mental Health	4	5	9
Mobility Problems	1	2	3
SpLD/ADHD	10	8	18
SpLD/Dyslexia	6	14	20
Stammer	2	0	2
Visual Impairment	1	0	1
Total	55	51	106

Table 2.6 shows the number of registrations by subject at Advanced and Intermediate levels made by candidates who requested special arrangements. Subjects with no registrations at both levels are omitted from this table.

Table 2.6: Number of Registrations by Subject by Candidates who Requested Access Arrangements

Subject	Advanced Level	Intermediate Level
Accounting	6	1
Art	3	1
Biology	25	8
Chemistry	13	1
Classical Studies		2
Computing	5	1
Economics	2	3
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.		3
Engineering Drawing	1	
English	16	26
Environmental Science		9
French	1	2
Geography	1	3
German	0	1
Graphical Communication	1	
History	5	5
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	6	0
Information Technology	0	2
Italian	2	3
Maltese	14	6
Marketing	13	7
Philosophy	3	7
Physical Education		4
Physics	14	19
Psychology		25
Pure Maths	12	6
Religious Knowledge	2	6
Sociology	4	3
Spanish	3	0
Systems Of Knowledge		52
Theatre And Performance	0	1

Table 2.7 presents the number of candidates who registered for the Matriculation examinations from the different localities in Malta and Gozo. The data is grouped by locality as well as by region. Figure 2.11 graphically represents the number of candidates from different regions.

Table 2.7: 2018 First Session Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality

Locality	Males	Females	Total
Southern Harbour	221	292	513
Birgu	3	1	4
Bormla	3	7	10
Fgura	42	50	92
Floriana	5	4	9
Isla	3	0	3
Kalkara	10	20	30
Luqa	14	17	31
Marsa	9	9	18
Paola	22	32	54
Santa Luċija	12	12	24
Tarxien	33	45	78
Valletta	10	13	23
Xgħajra	9	12	21
Żabbar	46	70	116
Northern Harbour	388	538	926
Birkirkara	77	103	180
Fleur-de-Lys	2	1	3
Gżira	24	28	52
Ħamrun	8	23	31
Ibraġġ	15	15	30
Kappara	9	12	21
Msida	15	23	38
Pembroke	24	32	56
Pieta'	9	15	24
Qormi	29	57	86
San Ġiljan	36	31	67
San Ġwann	33	43	76
Santa Venera	19	42	61
Sliema	45	51	96
Swatar	7	26	33
Swieqi	33	32	65
Ta'Xbiex	3	4	7
South Eastern	225	389	614
Birżebbuġa	33	43	76
Għaxaq	14	29	43
Gudja	8	19	27
Kirkop	7	14	21
Marsascala	30	82	112
Marsaxlokk	18	23	41
Mqabba	13	24	37
Qrendi	10	9	19
Safi	11	15	26
Żejtun	31	53	84
Żurrieq	50	78	128

Locality	Males	Females	Total
Western	269	316	585
Attard	57	74	131
Baħrija	2	4	6
Balzan	24	23	47
Dingli	24	10	34
Iklin	24	23	47
Lija	11	13	24
Mdina	0	1	1
Mtarfa	22	27	49
Rabat	36	36	72
Siġġiewi	21	50	71
Żebbuġ	48	55	103
Northern	289	417	706
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq	6	7	13
Buġibba	8	8	16
Għargħur	8	31	39
Madliena	5	8	13
Mellieħa	36	48	84
Mġarr	17	21	38
Mosta	91	146	237
Naxxar	68	76	144
Qawra	14	17	31
San Pawl il-Baħar	33	45	78
San Pawl tat-Tarġa	3	10	13
Gozo	188	273	461
Fontana	5	10	15
Għajnsielem	7	19	26
Għarb	4	11	15
Għasri	3	3	6
Kerċem	9	15	24
Marsalforn	3	3	6
Munxar	7	13	20
Nadur	17	41	58
Qala	11	13	24
San Lawrenz	3	5	8
Sannat	12	19	31
Santa Luċija	4	0	4
Victoria	46	39	85
Xagħra	37	37	74
Xewkija	15	28	43
Xlendi	2	0	2
Żebbuġ	3	17	20

The data presented in Table 2.7 is illustrated in Figure 2.11. In Malta, the largest number of registrations by region for the Matriculation Certificate comes from the Northern Harbour (24.3%) and Northern (18.6%) regions while least candidates come from Gozo (12.1%) and Southern Harbour (13.5%) regions. Most candidates come from Mosta (237 candidates), Birkirkara (180 candidates), Naxxar (144 candidates), Attard (131 candidates), Żurrieq (128 candidates), Żabbar (116 candidates), and Marsascula (112 candidates). Most candidates from Gozo came from the locality of Victoria (85 candidates).

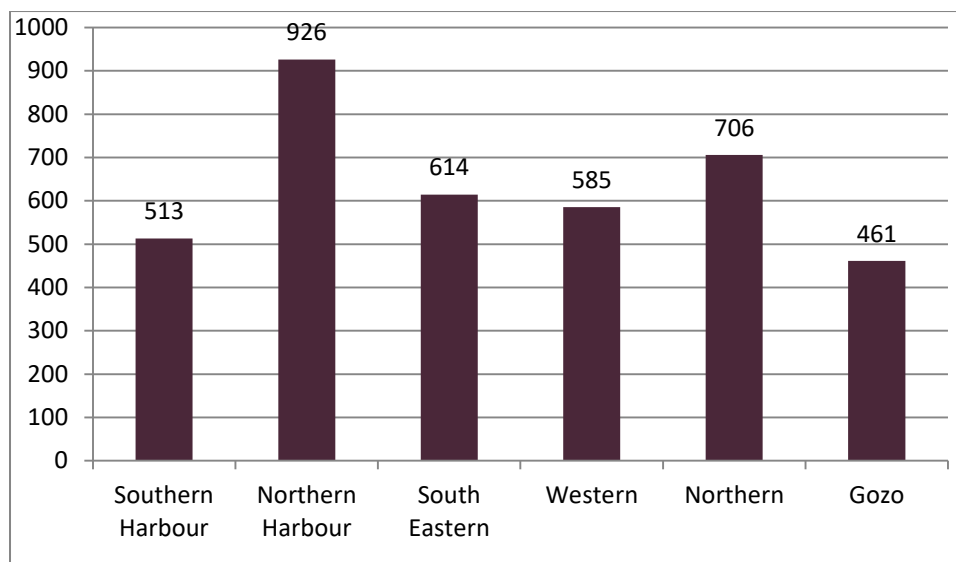


Figure 2.11: First Session Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region

Table 2.8 shows the number of candidates who requested a Revision of Papers following the First examination session. There were only four subjects in which requests for Revision of Papers were made at neither AM nor IM level. These four subjects are small entry subjects and are omitted in the table that follows. The overall percentage of requests for a Revision of Papers was higher for subjects at Advanced level compared to Intermediate level (10.3% and 7.4% respectively). The percentage requests in 2018 are much higher than those reported in 2017 for either AM and IM level (6.9% and 3.1% respectively). This was expected due to the halving of examination registration fees. Most percentage requests at AM level were in Chemistry (21.1%), Art (21.7%), Theatre and Performance (22.2%), and Biology (15.9%). At IM level most requests were made in Theatre and Performance (22.6%), Art (13.6%), and Systems of Knowledge (12.7%). Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.

Table 2.8: First Session Registrations for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Register	Requests	%	Register	Requests	%
Accounting	453	40	8.8	72	1	1.4
Applied Maths	4	0	0.0	36	1	2.8
Art	69	15	21.7	22	3	13.6
Biology	621	99	15.9	267	11	4.1
Chemistry	464	98	21.1	31	1	3.2
Classical Studies				41	4	9.8
Computing	145	7	4.8	66	2	3.0
Economics	161	9	5.6	67	5	7.5
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.				79	5	6.3
English	751	91	12.1	889	69	7.8
Environmental Science				418	6	1.4
French	53	6	11.3	86	2	2.3
Geography	45	2	4.4	98	4	4.1
German	35	1	2.9	39	0	0.0
History	92	12	13.0	74	7	9.5
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	124	6	4.8	58	2	3.4
Information Technology	31	1	3.2	145	4	2.8
Italian	102	3	2.9	72	5	6.9
Maltese	549	45	8.2	219	12	5.5
Marketing	427	29	6.8	306	15	4.9
Philosophy	98	6	6.1	292	26	8.9
Physical Education				129	3	2.3
Physics	366	43	11.7	545	28	5.1
Psychology				812	63	7.8
Pure Maths	490	38	7.8	529	26	4.9
Religious Knowledge	60	2	3.3	173	11	6.4
Sociology	197	4	2.0	228	4	1.8
Spanish	33	0	0.0	27	1	3.7
Systems Of Knowledge				2045	260	12.7
Theatre And Performance	9	2	22.2	31	7	22.6
TOTAL	5418	559	10.3	7902	588	7.4

3. FIRST SESSION RESULTS

Table 3.1 presents the Advanced Level results by gender obtained in the different subjects for all candidates. Table 3.2 presents the Intermediate Level results in the different subjects by gender. These tables are presented on the adjacent pages.

Table 3.1: First Session - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	23	60	108	67	54	88	53	453
Females	15	39	59	38	34	52	33	270
Males	8	21	49	29	20	36	20	183
Applied Maths	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Arabic	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	5
Females	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Males	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Art	2	8	20	12	13	4	10	69
Females	1	7	18	6	10	4	9	55
Males	1	1	2	6	3	0	1	14
Biology	69	126	157	109	78	67	15	621
Females	48	86	97	67	49	48	11	406
Males	21	40	60	42	29	19	4	215
Chemistry	62	73	117	67	54	70	21	464
Females	41	49	68	40	38	40	15	291
Males	21	24	49	27	16	30	6	173
Computing	13	24	41	29	16	8	14	145
Females	3	6	11	8	3	1	1	33
Males	10	18	30	21	13	7	13	112
Economics	11	32	47	34	9	20	8	161
Females	6	15	24	15	7	8	2	77
Males	5	17	23	19	2	12	6	84
Engineering Drawing	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	16	46	268	114	125	141	41	751
Females	7	35	194	75	88	90	30	519
Males	9	11	74	39	37	51	11	232
French	2	7	16	13	8	3	4	53
Females	1	7	13	8	8	2	3	42
Males	1	0	3	5	0	1	1	11
Geography	4	9	15	8	7	1	1	45
Females	3	2	9	6	4	0	0	24
Males	1	7	6	2	3	1	1	21
German	9	4	13	5	2	1	1	35
Females	8	2	11	4	2	1	1	29
Males	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	6
Graphical Communication	0	3	6	1	1	5	1	17
Females	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
Males	0	2	4	1	1	4	1	13
History	2	13	32	16	8	8	13	92
Females	2	8	19	9	3	5	5	51
Males	0	5	13	7	5	3	8	41

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	6	15	52	23	17	9	2	124
Females	6	15	44	19	13	5	2	104
Males	0	0	8	4	4	4	0	20
Information Technology	1	8	9	4	2	3	4	31
Females	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	7
Males	1	6	7	3	1	2	4	24
Italian	8	10	30	18	12	19	5	102
Females	7	8	24	13	8	13	2	75
Males	1	2	6	5	4	6	3	27
Maltese	27	107	178	84	74	47	32	549
Females	15	77	125	59	61	29	20	386
Males	12	30	53	25	13	18	12	163
Marketing	21	44	106	53	54	81	68	427
Females	11	29	59	27	33	37	34	230
Males	10	15	47	26	21	44	34	197
Music	3	4	2	1	0	0	1	11
Females	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	6
Males	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
Philosophy	4	14	19	24	11	16	10	98
Females	3	9	12	14	7	5	5	55
Males	1	5	7	10	4	11	5	43
Physics	20	52	106	84	44	39	21	366
Females	7	17	39	32	17	12	3	127
Males	13	35	67	52	27	27	18	239
Pure Maths	42	100	126	46	28	113	35	490
Females	16	37	40	16	11	33	9	162
Males	26	63	86	30	17	80	26	328
Religious Knowledge	4	7	13	8	3	9	16	60
Females	1	4	6	4	1	6	7	29
Males	3	3	7	4	2	3	9	31
Russian	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Females	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	17	32	63	32	25	11	17	197
Females	15	27	51	20	16	9	14	152
Males	2	5	12	12	9	2	3	45
Spanish	6	6	7	5	3	3	3	33
Females	5	3	5	3	1	2	3	22
Males	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	11
Theatre And Performance	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	9
Females	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Males	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	6

Table 3.2: First Session - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	4	7	12	10	8	18	13	72
Females	0	5	5	4	4	9	4	31
Males	4	2	7	6	4	9	9	41
Applied Maths	4	6	7	6	5	7	1	36
Females	1	3	3	4	3	2	0	16
Males	3	3	4	2	2	5	1	20
Arabic	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Females	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Art	1	2	5	6	4	1	3	22
Females	0	1	4	4	2	1	2	14
Males	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	8
Biology	6	23	44	51	41	67	35	267
Females	5	14	32	40	34	53	23	201
Males	1	9	12	11	7	14	12	66
Chemistry	5	4	5	3	2	6	6	31
Females	2	3	1	2	2	3	6	19
Males	3	1	4	1	0	3	0	12
Classical Studies	5	7	3	5	9	10	2	41
Females	4	5	3	4	5	8	1	30
Males	1	2	0	1	4	2	1	11
Computing	3	13	19	11	7	8	5	66
Females	1	0	4	6	3	1	0	15
Males	2	13	15	5	4	7	5	51
Economics	7	7	12	17	7	16	1	67
Females	3	2	4	6	4	6	0	25
Males	4	5	8	11	3	10	1	42
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	6	11	18	15	10	18	1	79
Females	3	3	8	4	3	4	0	25
Males	3	8	10	11	7	14	1	54
English	24	115	280	176	136	129	29	889
Females	14	78	152	91	71	64	15	485
Males	10	37	128	85	65	65	14	404
Environmental Science	17	33	94	98	71	63	42	418
Females	9	20	58	62	41	50	22	262
Males	8	13	36	36	30	13	20	156
French	10	14	23	16	11	7	5	86
Females	7	11	19	12	7	6	3	65
Males	3	3	4	4	4	1	2	21
Geography	8	8	25	17	14	13	13	98
Females	6	4	13	8	9	5	8	53
Males	2	4	12	9	5	8	5	45
German	11	8	11	3	3	2	1	39
Females	9	1	8	2	3	0	0	23
Males	2	7	3	1	0	2	1	16
History	8	12	20	14	6	9	5	74
Females	6	5	10	9	3	3	2	38
Males	2	7	10	5	3	6	3	36
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	5	10	21	12	3	0	7	58
Females	5	9	19	7	3	0	4	47
Males	0	1	2	5	0	0	3	11
Information Technology	14	40	47	24	6	6	8	145
Females	5	21	20	9	2	2	2	61
Males	9	19	27	15	4	4	6	84

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Italian	6	12	23	9	7	10	5	72
Females	3	4	10	5	3	6	2	33
Males	3	8	13	4	4	4	3	39
Latin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Maltese	8	27	63	42	37	32	10	219
Females	6	20	42	30	18	13	5	134
Males	2	7	21	12	19	19	5	85
Marketing	33	61	78	43	33	36	22	306
Females	20	33	38	25	16	16	11	159
Males	13	28	40	18	17	20	11	147
Music	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philosophy	30	30	80	48	34	54	16	292
Females	23	19	46	26	13	25	12	164
Males	7	11	34	22	21	29	4	128
Physical Education	6	13	37	21	23	21	8	129
Females	3	7	15	9	13	10	2	59
Males	3	6	22	12	10	11	6	70
Physics	40	77	158	85	76	75	34	545
Females	25	41	87	45	43	43	13	297
Males	15	36	71	40	33	32	21	248
Psychology	55	87	166	132	138	146	88	812
Females	41	68	128	86	94	97	61	575
Males	14	19	38	46	44	49	27	237
Pure Maths	47	52	99	45	101	148	37	529
Females	31	32	60	26	54	69	15	287
Males	16	20	39	19	47	79	22	242
Religious Knowledge	7	13	36	31	26	43	17	173
Females	5	8	27	20	10	15	9	94
Males	2	5	9	11	16	28	8	79
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	18	27	57	36	26	37	27	228
Females	14	19	40	28	14	22	15	152
Males	4	8	17	8	12	15	12	76
Spanish	5	5	10	1	2	3	1	27
Females	4	4	6	1	0	2	1	18
Males	1	1	4	0	2	1	0	9
Systems Of Knowledge	81	221	771	247	62	615	48	2045
Females	57	136	471	141	21	347	24	1197
Males	24	85	300	106	41	268	24	848
Theatre And Performance	2	2	5	5	2	15	0	31
Females	2	1	4	3	1	9	0	20
Males	0	1	1	2	1	6	0	11

One observes that, except for small entry subjects, all grades are attained in all subjects. Candidates' performance varies between subjects. At AM level, the percentage of candidates attaining Grades A to C varies from 0% (Applied Mathematics) to 100% (Russian). At IM level, the percentage of candidates attaining Grades A to C varies from 27.3% (Biology) to 76.9% (German) and 100% (Music, Latin).

Percentage of first session candidates attaining Grades A to C in subjects at AM level

>90% Engineering Drawing, Russian,

>80% Arabic, Music,

>70% German,

>60% Geography,

>50% Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, Graphical Communication, History, Home Econ. & Human Ecology, Information Technology, Maltese, Pure Maths, Sociology, Spanish,

>40% Accounting, Art, English, French, Italian, Marketing, Physics, Religious Knowledge,

>30% Philosophy,

<30% Applied Maths.

Percentage of first session candidates attaining Grades A to C in subjects at IM level

>90% Latin, Music,

>80%

>70% German, Information Technology,

>60% Home Econ. & Human Ecology,

>50% Arabic, Computing, French, History, Italian, Marketing, Physics,

>40% Applied Maths, Chemistry, Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm., English, Geography, Maltese, Philosophy, Physical Education,

>30% Accounting, Art, Classical Studies, Economics, Environmental Science, Psychology, Pure Maths,

<30% Biology.

Table 3.3 shows that in the 2018 first session, at Advanced level, 12 out of the 599 requests for a Revision of Papers had their grade revised. This means at 2.1% of the requests resulted in a higher grade. At Intermediate level, 40 out of the 586 requests had their grade revised. At this level, 6.8% of the requests resulted in an upgrade. Thus, although the number of requests for Revision of Papers was higher than 2017, the percentage change in grades was lower.

Table 3.3: First Session - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Accounting	453	40	0	0.0	72	1	0	0.0
Applied Maths	4	0	0		36	1	0	0.0
Art	69	15	0	0.0	22	3	0	0.0
Biology	621	99	0	0.0	267	11	0	0.0
Chemistry	464	98	4	4.1	31	1	0	0.0
Classical Studies					41	4	0	0.0
Computing	145	7	0	0.0	66	2	0	0.0
Economics	161	9	1	11.1	67	5	2	40.0
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.					79	5	1	20.0
English	751	91	0	0.0	889	69	2	2.9
Environmental Science					418	6	1	16.7
French	53	6	0	0.0	86	2	0	0.0
Geography	45	2	0	0.0	98	4	0	0.0
German	35	1	0	0.0	39	0	0	
History	92	12	2	16.7	74	7	1	14.3
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	124	6	0	0.0	58	2	0	0.0
Information Technology	31	1	1	100.0	145	4	0	0.0
Italian	102	3	0	0.0	72	5	1	20.0
Maltese	549	45	0	0.0	219	12	0	0.0
Marketing	427	29	3	10.3	306	15	4	26.7
Philosophy	98	6	0	0.0	292	26	3	11.5
Physical Education					129	3	0	0.0
Physics	366	43	1	2.3	545	28	1	3.6
Psychology					812	63	4	6.3
Pure Maths	490	38	0	0.0	529	26	0	0.0
Religious Knowledge	60	2	0	0.0	173	11	1	9.1
Sociology	197	4	0	0.0	228	4	1	25.0
Spanish	33	0	0		27	1	0	0.0
Systems Of Knowledge					2045	260	18	6.9
Theatre And Performance	9	2	0	0.0	31	7	0	0.0
TOTAL		559	12	2.1		588	40	6.8

Table 3.4 presents data relating to the number of candidates awarded the Matriculation Certificate after the 2018 first examination session.

Table 3.4: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in the First Session

Cohort	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	466	729	1195
1999 Cohort	62	83	145
2000 Cohort	375	612	987
2001 Cohort	1	0	1

The number of candidates being awarded the Matriculation Certificate following the First session in 2018 is larger than the number of candidates who sat for the examinations required to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in this session. This shows that this session was not the first session for a number of candidates. The data in Table 3.4 shows that 31.4% of all first session candidates (29.5% of males and 32.7% of females) obtained the Matriculation Certificate following the First session. If only the 2000 cohort are considered, 50.8% of candidates (47.6% of males and 52.9% of females) were awarded the Matriculation Certificate following the First session. These make up 23.2% of the children born 18 years ago (17.6% of males and 28.7% of females). Of the 777 candidates (346 males and 431 females) who sat for the examinations required to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in the First session, 318 (143 males and 175 females) obtained the certificate. These amount to 40.9% (41.3% of males and 40.6% of females).

4. SECOND SESSION REGISTRATIONS

Since 2012 the September session for Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation Level of examination is no longer a supplementary session but a separate session from the First session. Thus, while candidates used to register for the Second session to re-sit examinations, other candidates are now registering for Advanced and/or Intermediate examinations for the first time. Of the 2,811 candidates for the Second session, 1,094 (38.9%) did not sit for examinations in the First session. The data in the following tables suggest that many of the latter candidates are students in their first year of post-secondary studies who take the opportunity of the amended regulations to spread the examinations in six subjects required for the award of the Matriculation Certificate over two or more sessions without possibly missing out a year at University in case of a failure. In fact, more 17-year-olds, rather than 18-year-olds, sat for examinations in the Second session of 2018. In addition, a total of 39 (26 female and 13 male) 16-year-olds sat for examinations in this session. The total number of candidates who registered for the 2018 Second session of examinations is given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Total Number of Candidates Sitting for the Second Session

Cohort	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	1204	1607	2811
2000 Cohort	424	536	960
2001 Cohort	501	733	1234
First Sit	466	628	1094

The numbers of candidates who registered for AM and IM Level examinations are given in Tables 4.2 below. The data is presented by gender and date of birth.

Table 4.2: Registrations for the Second Session by Year of Birth and Gender

Year	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1995	22	39	61	8	9	17
1995	2	5	7	1	2	3
1996	6	7	13	6	7	13
1997	21	19	40	13	20	33
1998	38	40	78	34	37	71
1999	99	108	207	86	102	188
2000	228	284	512	341	452	793
2001	104	164	268	470	699	1169
2002	1	1	2	12	25	37
Total	521	667	1188	971	1353	2324

Table 4.2 shows that the largest number of registrations for Advanced Level examinations was made by the 2000 cohort. These are likely to be candidates who have finished their

two-year course at Form VI. Most registrations from Intermediate Level examinations are from the 2001 cohort. These are probably candidates who are sitting examinations following one year of their two-year course to, in the candidates' own words, "get them out of the way"².

Table 4.3 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied to sit for Matriculation examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects in the 2018 second session. Subjects with no registrations at either level are not shown.

Table 4.3: Second Session Matriculation Examination Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	50	50	100	25	12	37
Applied Maths	0	0	0	9	4	13
Arabic	1	0	1	2	1	3
Art	7	5	12	1	3	4
Biology	23	54	77	27	154	181
Chemistry	25	32	57	4	13	17
Classical Studies				7	8	15
Computing	23	4	27	11	4	15
Economics	10	6	16	10	8	18
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.				29	11	40
English	71	166	237	330	381	711
Environmental Science				67	129	196
French	2	7	9	8	31	39
Geography	1	1	2	22	27	49
German	0	4	4	15	21	36
History	10	5	15	19	10	29
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	3	13	16	7	28	35
Information Technology	1	2	3	10	11	21
Italian	9	10	19	17	22	39
Maltese	42	108	150	52	64	116
Marketing	92	90	182	104	102	206
Music	0	0	0	1	1	2
Philosophy	7	8	15	53	62	115
Physical Education				27	28	55
Physics	41	11	52	81	75	156
Psychology				106	240	346
Pure Maths	78	36	114	104	142	246
Religious Knowledge	10	12	22	52	56	108
Russian	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sociology	13	38	51	33	82	115
Spanish	2	5	7	3	4	7
Systems Of Knowledge				283	383	666
Theatre And Performance	0	0	0	3	6	9

² MATSEC Support Unit (2017). *Candidates' Feedback: MATSEC 2017 Examinations*. Malta: University of Malta. Retrieved from <https://www.um.edu.mt/matsec/reports/researchreports>

In 2018, there were registrations for most subjects at AM level in the second session. The only AM subjects with no registrations are Engineering Drawing, Greek, Graphical Communication, Applied Mathematics, Latin, Music, Russian, and Theatre and Performance. These are all small-entry subjects. There were registrations for all subjects offered at IM level apart from Greek and Latin.

During the second session, the AM Level subjects with most candidates were English (237 candidates), Maltese (150 candidates), Marketing (182 candidates), Pure Mathematics (114 candidates), and Accounting (100 candidates). At IM Level, subjects with most candidates were English (711 candidates), Systems of Knowledge (666 candidates), Psychology (346 candidates), Pure Mathematics (246 candidates), Marketing (206 candidates), and Environmental Science (196 candidates).

A total of 1,188 candidates (521 males and 667 females) applied to sit for an AM Level examination in the second session of 2018. Table 4.4 shows the number of IM Level subjects that candidates applied for in the second session. One should note that the second session is a restricted session where candidates can apply for a maximum of one AM Level examination, four IM level subjects - one from each group - and Systems of Knowledge. Most candidates applied for one Intermediate Level examination.

Table 4.4: Second Session Intermediate Level Registrations by Number of Subjects and Gender

Number of Subjects	Males	Females	Total
1	518	704	1222
2	362	537	899
3	84	103	187
4	7	8	15
5	0	1	1

Table 4.5 below shows the number of requests, by subject, made for a Revision of Papers after the publication of the second session results. Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section. For AM and IM Level examinations, 6.6% and 6.9% of the respective papers were revised following registrations for Revision of Papers. Subjects with no requests for Revision of Papers are omitted from the table.

Table 4.5: Second Session Registration for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Registered	Requested	%	Registered	Requested	%
Accounting	100	10	10.0	37	2	5.4
Biology	77	4	5.2	181	4	2.2
Chemistry	57	1	1.8	17	1	5.9
Computing	27	4	14.8	15	0	0.0
Economics	16	0	0.0	18	2	11.1
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.				40	2	5.0
English	237	12	5.1	711	83	11.7
Environmental Science				196	2	1.0
French	9	1	11.1	39	0	0.0
Geography	2	0	0.0	49	1	2.0
History	15	2	13.3	29	2	6.9
Information Technology	3	0	0.0	21	1	4.8
Italian	19	1	5.3	39	1	2.6
Maltese	150	19	12.7	116	6	5.2
Marketing	182	15	8.2	206	12	5.8
Philosophy	15	0	0.0	115	1	0.9
Physical Education				55	4	7.3
Physics	52	3	5.8	156	11	7.1
Psychology				346	17	4.9
Pure Maths	114	4	3.5	246	6	2.4
Religious Knowledge	22	0	0.0	108	9	8.3
Sociology	51	2	3.9	115	9	7.8
Spanish	7	0	0.0	7	1	14.3
Systems Of Knowledge				666	74	11.1
TOTAL	1188	78	6.6	3646	251	6.9

5. SECOND SESSION RESULTS

The following tables present the results of the 2018 second session of examinations. Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 respectively present the Advanced and Intermediate level results by gender. It is important to note that registrations for the second session are restricted to a maximum of six subjects: one subject at AM level; one subject from each of Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Group 4 subjects at IM level; and Systems of Knowledge.

Table 5.1: Second Session - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	1	2	8	19	19	28	23	100
Females	0	1	4	8	10	13	14	50
Males	1	1	4	11	9	15	9	50
Arabic	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Art	0	1	2	6	1	1	1	12
Females	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	5
Males	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	7
Biology	0	1	8	22	21	24	1	77
Females	0	1	4	13	17	18	1	54
Males	0	0	4	9	4	6	0	23
Chemistry	1	1	17	16	9	7	6	57
Females	0	1	8	10	7	2	4	32
Males	1	0	9	6	2	5	2	25
Computing	2	4	11	9	0	0	1	27
Females	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Males	2	4	9	7	0	0	1	23
Economics	0	0	3	4	3	3	3	16
Females	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	6
Males	0	0	2	2	1	2	3	10
English	0	3	63	44	55	56	16	237
Females	0	3	42	28	39	42	12	166
Males	0	0	21	16	16	14	4	71
French	0	0	0	4	3	2	0	9
Females	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	7
Males	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Geography	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
German	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Females	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
History	2	1	2	4	3	2	1	15
Females	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	5
Males	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	10
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	1	3	4	3	0	5	0	16
Females	1	3	4	2	0	3	0	13
Males	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Information Technology	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Females	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Italian	1	2	4	2	1	7	2	19
Females	1	1	2	0	0	6	0	10
Males	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	9
Maltese	1	16	40	33	30	13	17	150
Females	0	11	28	22	21	12	14	108
Males	1	5	12	11	9	1	3	42
Marketing	3	15	36	32	22	43	31	182
Females	1	8	23	14	11	16	17	90
Males	2	7	13	18	11	27	14	92
Philosophy	0	1	5	3	1	2	3	15
Females	0	1	2	0	1	1	3	8
Males	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	7
Physics	1	5	21	12	6	2	5	52
Females	0	0	6	1	0	1	3	11
Males	1	5	15	11	6	1	2	41
Pure Mathematics	1	3	56	16	8	16	14	114
Females	1	1	19	6	3	3	3	36
Males	0	2	37	10	5	13	11	78
Religious Knowledge	0	1	3	4	3	7	4	22
Females	0	1	0	3	2	3	3	12
Males	0	0	3	1	1	4	1	10
Sociology	2	3	16	3	15	3	9	51
Females	2	3	11	3	10	3	6	38
Males	0	0	5	0	5	0	3	13
Spanish	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	7
Females	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	5
Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2

Table 5.2: Second Session - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject		A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting		7	9	8	4	1	5	3	37
	Females	2	3	3	0	1	2	1	12
	Males	5	6	5	4	0	3	2	25
Applied Mathematics		1	1	1	4	3	2	1	13
	Females	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
	Males	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	9
Arabic		0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
	Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Art		0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
	Females	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
	Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Biology		13	27	33	28	38	17	25	181
	Females	11	23	29	26	30	15	20	154
	Males	2	4	4	2	8	2	5	27
Chemistry		0	1	3	3	3	6	1	17
	Females	0	0	2	2	2	6	1	13
	Males	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
Classical Studies		2	2	3	3	3	0	2	15
	Females	2	0	1	1	2	0	2	8
	Males	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	7
Computing		0	3	5	3	0	4	0	15
	Females	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
	Males	0	2	3	2	0	4	0	11
Economics		0	1	1	4	4	6	2	18
	Females	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	8
	Males	0	1	1	1	1	4	2	10
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.		5	7	7	4	4	6	7	40
	Females	2	2	3	0	2	1	1	11
	Males	3	5	4	4	2	5	6	29
English		9	55	145	144	164	153	41	711
	Females	6	27	89	81	81	69	28	381
	Males	3	28	56	63	83	84	13	330
Environmental Science		8	24	46	53	23	12	30	196
	Females	6	17	24	33	16	10	23	129
	Males	2	7	22	20	7	2	7	67
French		6	10	9	5	6	0	3	39
	Females	5	7	8	5	3	0	3	31
	Males	1	3	1	0	3	0	0	8
Geography		1	7	10	7	10	11	3	49
	Females	1	4	8	1	5	7	1	27
	Males	0	3	2	6	5	4	2	22
German		6	6	12	9	1	1	1	36
	Females	5	3	5	5	1	1	1	21
	Males	1	3	7	4	0	0	0	15
History		1	1	7	8	3	5	4	29
	Females	1	0	2	1	2	1	3	10
	Males	0	1	5	7	1	4	1	19
Home Ec. & Human Ecology		2	13	11	5	0	0	4	35
	Females	2	11	9	4	0	0	2	28
	Males	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	7

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Information Technology	1	7	8	2	0	2	1	21
Females	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	11
Males	1	2	3	2	0	2	0	10
Italian	3	5	8	7	7	6	3	39
Females	2	2	5	5	5	1	2	22
Males	1	3	3	2	2	5	1	17
Maltese	3	10	32	31	15	19	6	116
Females	1	3	22	19	5	12	2	64
Males	2	7	10	12	10	7	4	52
Marketing	23	39	40	30	14	37	23	206
Females	16	18	18	18	6	13	13	102
Males	7	21	22	12	8	24	10	104
Music	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Philosophy	13	15	34	12	9	19	13	115
Females	11	8	15	6	4	10	8	62
Males	2	7	19	6	5	9	5	53
Physical Education	4	1	17	10	11	7	5	55
Females	4	1	8	1	8	3	3	28
Males	0	0	9	9	3	4	2	27
Physics	7	17	39	17	26	33	17	156
Females	4	8	20	8	9	20	6	75
Males	3	9	19	9	17	13	11	81
Psychology	13	20	45	50	65	114	39	346
Females	8	14	33	37	44	82	22	240
Males	5	6	12	13	21	32	17	106
Pure Mathematics	24	23	41	27	51	55	25	246
Females	20	10	26	14	28	31	13	142
Males	4	13	15	13	23	24	12	104
Religious Knowledge	0	3	9	21	19	49	7	108
Females	0	2	4	13	10	23	4	56
Males	0	1	5	8	9	26	3	52
Russian	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	3	3	20	29	32	20	8	115
Females	3	3	16	19	23	12	6	82
Males	0	0	4	10	9	8	2	33
Spanish	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	7
Females	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Systems of Knowledge	4	31	220	107	23	267	14	666
Females	3	25	125	56	9	156	9	383
Males	1	6	95	51	14	111	5	283
Theatre & Performance	0	0	2	1	1	5	0	9
Females	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	6
Males	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3

Table 5.3 below presents information on the outcome of the requests for Revision of Papers in the various subjects at Advanced and Intermediate Levels after the 2018 second session results were issued.

Table 5.3: Second Session - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Accounting	100	10	0	0.0	37	2	0	0.0
Biology	77	4	0	0.0	181	4	0	0.0
Chemistry	57	1	0	0.0	17	1	1	100.0
Computing	27	4	0	0.0	15	0	0	
Economics	16	0	0		18	2	0	0.0
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.					40	2	0	0.0
English	237	12	0	0.0	711	83	0	0.0
Environmental Science					196	2	0	0.0
French	9	1	0	0.0	39	0	0	
Geography	2	0	0		49	1	1	100.0
History	15	2	0	0.0	29	2	0	0.0
Information Technology	3	0	0		21	1	0	0.0
Italian	19	1	0	0.0	39	1	0	0.0
Maltese	150	19	0	0.0	116	6	0	0.0
Marketing	182	15	0	0.0	206	12	0	0.0
Philosophy	15	0	0		115	1	0	0.0
Physical Education					55	4	0	0.0
Physics	52	3	0	0.0	156	11	0	0.0
Psychology					346	17	0	0.0
Pure Maths	114	4	0	0.0	246	6	0	0.0
Religious Knowledge	22	0	0		108	9	0	0.0
Sociology	51	2	0	0.0	115	9	1	11.1
Spanish	7	0	0		7	1	0	0.0
Systems Of Knowledge					666	74	6	8.1
TOTAL		78	0	0.0		251	9	3.6

Following the second session of 2018, none of the 78 requests made for revision of paper at AM level resulted in an upgrade. From the 251 requests made at IM level, 9 resulted in an upgrade (3.6%).

Table 5.4 presents the numbers of the Matriculation Certificate awarded to all candidates in the second session. Information on some cohorts is also shown.

Table 5.4: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in the Second Session

Cohort	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	151	218	369
1999 Cohort	29	35	64
2000 Cohort	109	154	263
2001 Cohort	0	3	3

The data in Table 5.4 shows that 13.1% of the 2,811 candidates who sat for the second session in 2018 (12.5% males and 13.6% females) managed to qualify for the award of the Matriculation Certificate. However, it should be emphasised that a number of candidates sit for MC examinations but may not be aiming to obtain the MC, at least in that particular session. Table 5.4 shows that, following the September session 64 candidates from the 1999 cohort were awarded the Matriculation Certificate. These might be candidates who have repeated or skipped a year during their academic journey. Moreover, three candidates from the 2001 cohort were awarded the Matriculation Certificate following the Second session.

6. GENERAL STATISTICS

6.01. Registrations

The 2018 session is the sixth session since the change in regulations in 2012. This year, 3,807 candidates registered for the first examination session while 2,811 candidates registered for the second examination session. In the second session there were 1,094 candidates who used this session as their first attempt. This is equivalent to 22.3% of registrations, which is larger than values reported in previous years indicating that the number of candidates using the second session as a first sit is increasing.

In total, there were 4,901 individual registrations for MC examinations in 2018. This value is similar to those recorded following the change in regulations. It is likely that this increase in registrations following 2012 is caused by the increasing number of new candidates using the second session as their first sit. In fact, the number of registrations and the number of candidates using the second session as their first sit can be seen to follow a similar trend. These are illustrated in the figures below.

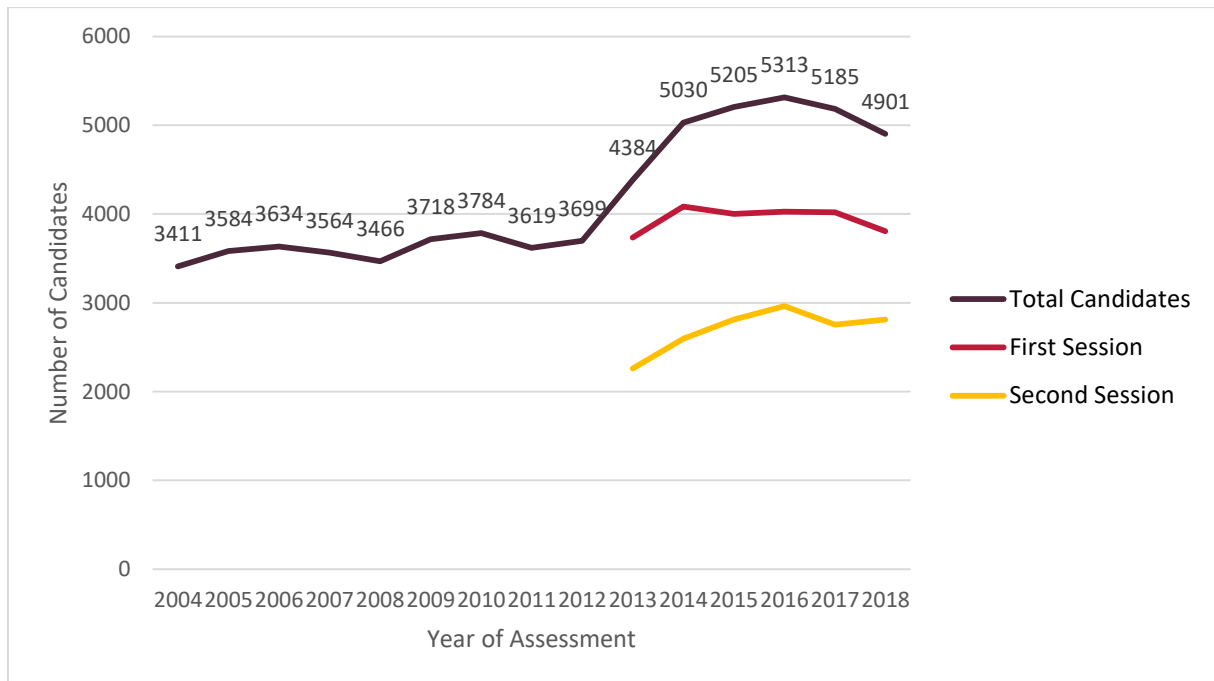


Figure 6.1: Total Number of Candidates Registering for Matriculation Examinations, by Year

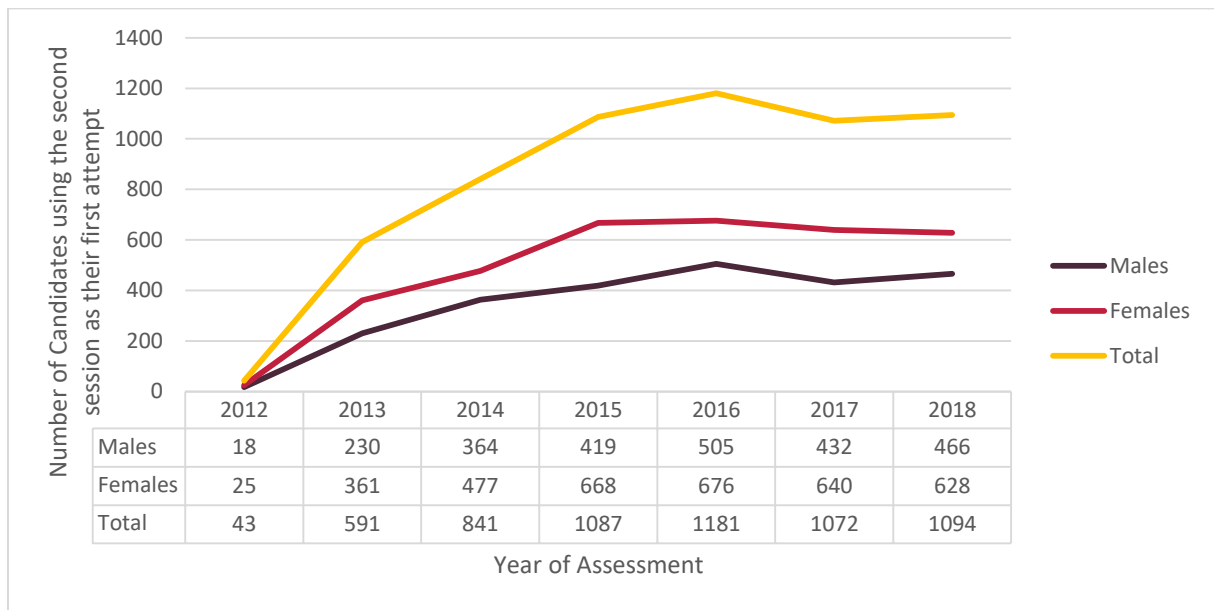


Figure 6.2: Number of Candidates using the Second Session as a First Sit, by Year and Gender

This year, 106 candidates applied for Examination Access Arrangements to access the first session of Matriculation examinations. This year’s applications are fewer than those in 2017 in line with the decreasing number of candidates for the First session. When calculated as a percentage, 2.8% of the candidates registered for Examination Access Arrangements in 2018, which is roughly equivalent to the percentage in 2017. These requests have been increasing along the years as shown in the figure below.

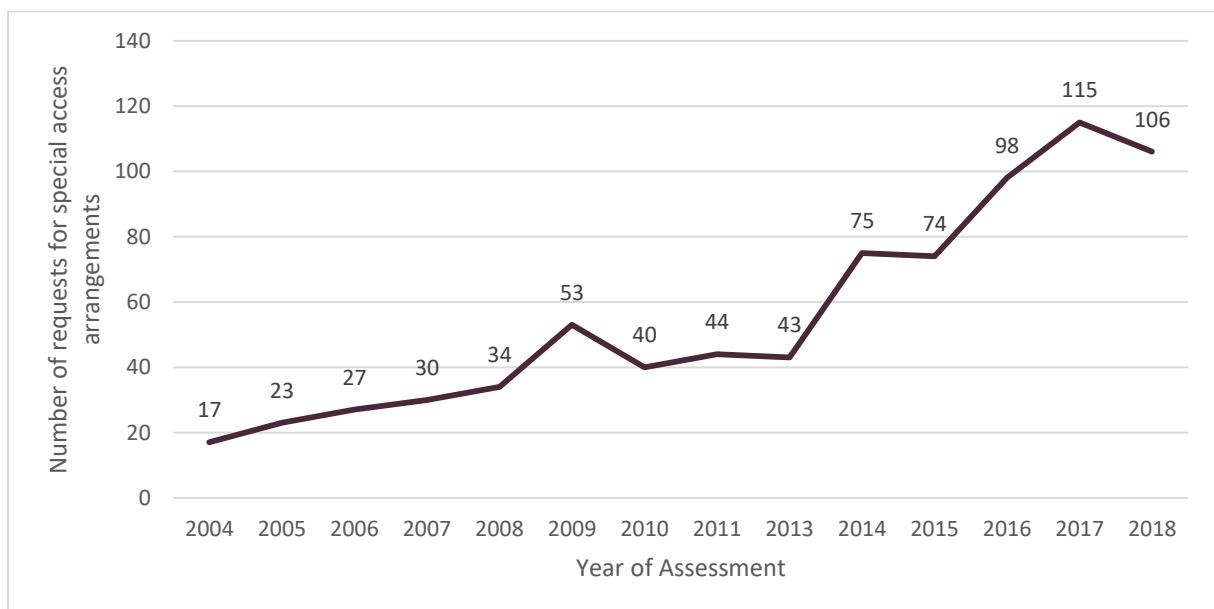


Figure 6.3: Number of Candidates applying for Access Arrangements from 2004 to 2018

6.02. Trends in Subject Choice

This section provides several plots showing how registrations in individual subjects at MC level have changed from 2008. Subject registrations are expressed as a percentage of the total number of candidates in that examination session. Only data for the first examination session in each year is presented. The four figures below present the registration data for the subjects at AM level.

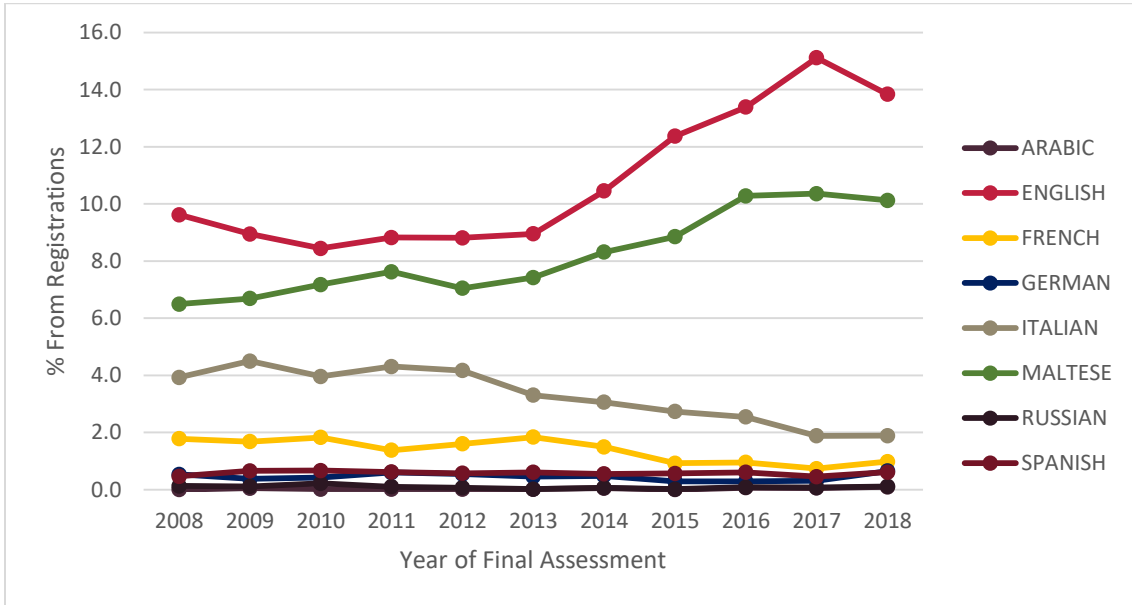


Figure 6.4: Trends in Registrations: AM Group 1 Subjects

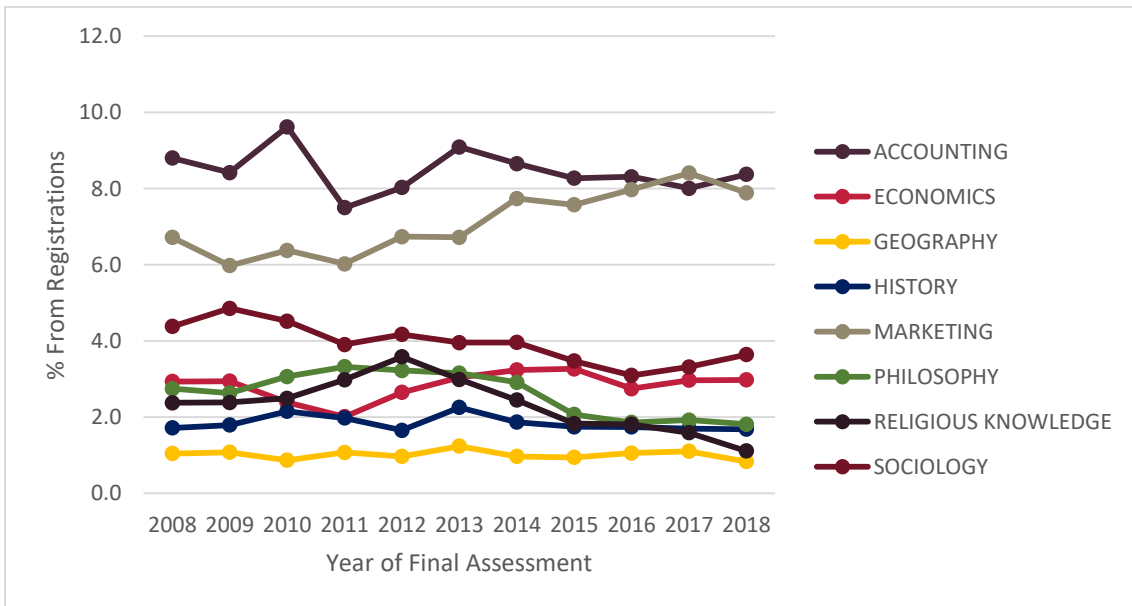


Figure 6.5: Trends in Registrations: AM Group 2 Subjects

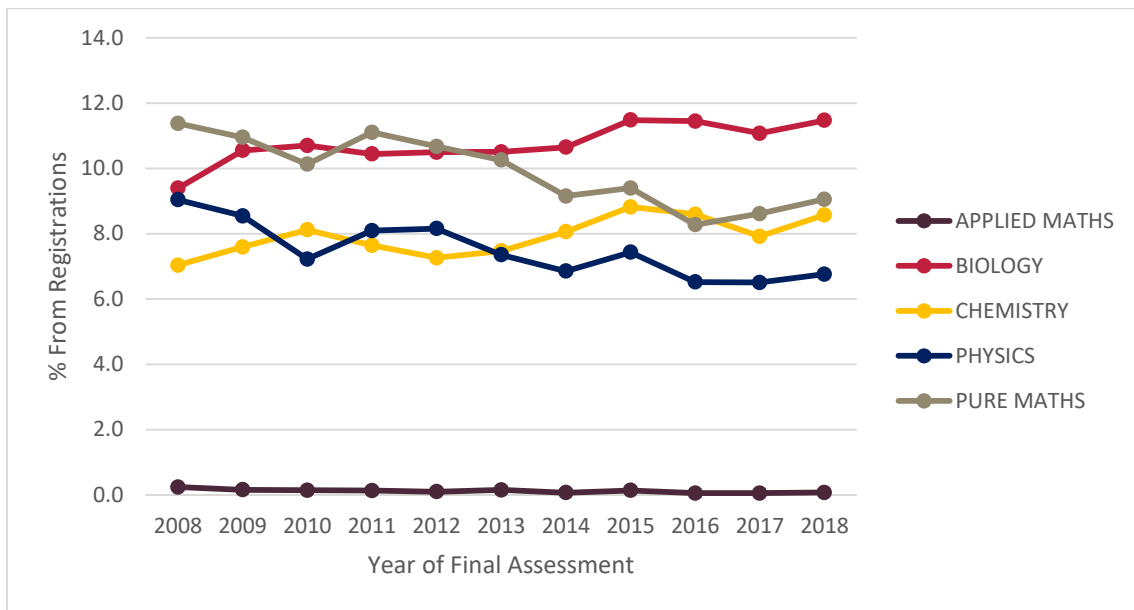


Figure 6.6: Trends in Registrations: AM Group 3 Subjects

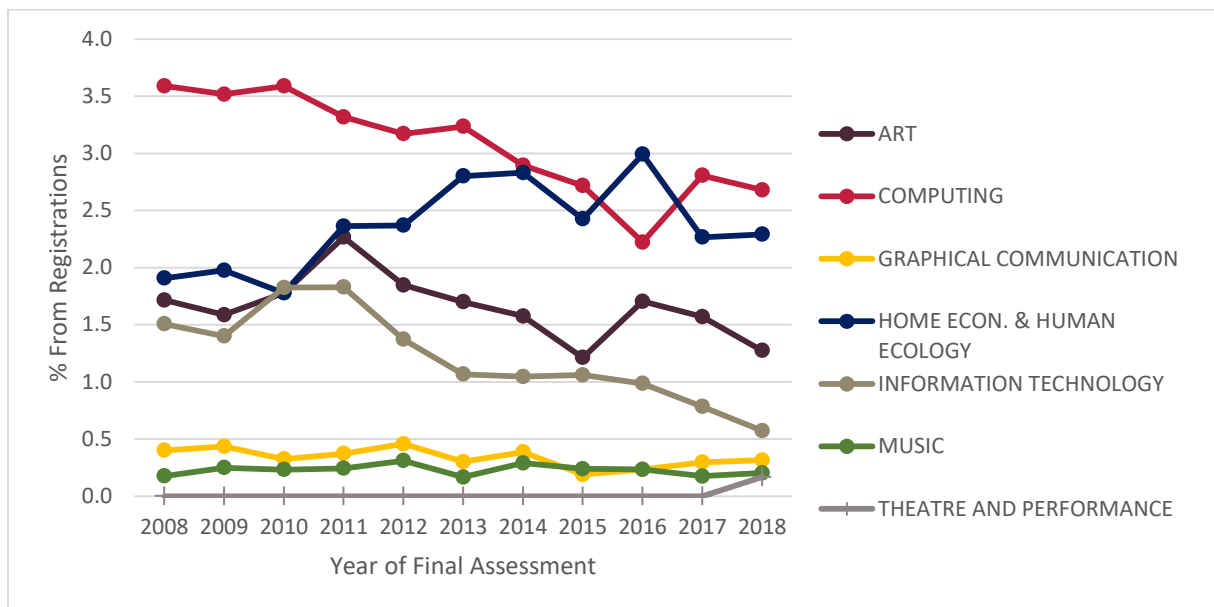


Figure 6.7: Trends in Registrations: AM Group 4 Subjects

From the figures above, the following trends are noted:

- The popularity of the two national languages was generally increasing at AM level. The popularity of AM English decreased in 2018, coupled with an increase in candidates taking the subject at IM level. A larger proportion of candidates registered for AM French, German, and Spanish when compared to 2017.

- The popularity of Group 2 subjects is lower than that of Group 1 and Group 3 subjects. The popularity of most subjects appears to be decreasing. The popularity of most subjects at this level is fairly constant; however AM Religious Knowledge has changed from 2.4% of registrations in 2008, to 3.6% in 2002, to 1.1% in 2018.
- There are small shifts in the popularity of Group 3 subjects, but the popularity of chemistry and biology seems to be increasing although there have been small drops as from 2015. The opposite is true for physics and pure mathematics. While 15 candidates applied for AM Applied Mathematics in 2008, 3 did so in 2016 and 2017, and 4 candidates registered for the subject in 2018.
- Group 4 subjects are small entry subjects. Thus, when illustrated, shifts in popularity might be inflated. For instance, the popularity of Home Economics and Human Ecology has changed from 119 candidates in 2008 to 179 candidates in 2016 and 124 candidates in 2018. However, Computing, Information Technology, and Art all appear to be waning in popularity. AM Theatre and Performance was first offered in 2018.

The figures below represent the same information but for Intermediate Matriculation level subjects.

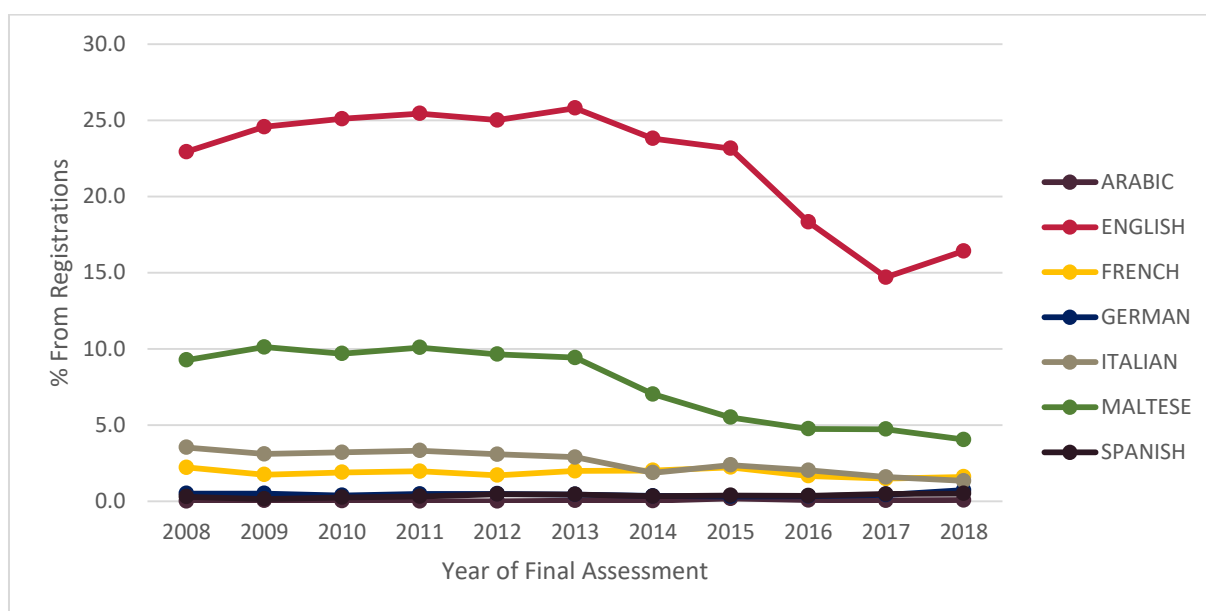


Figure 6.8: Trends in Registrations: IM Group 1 Subjects

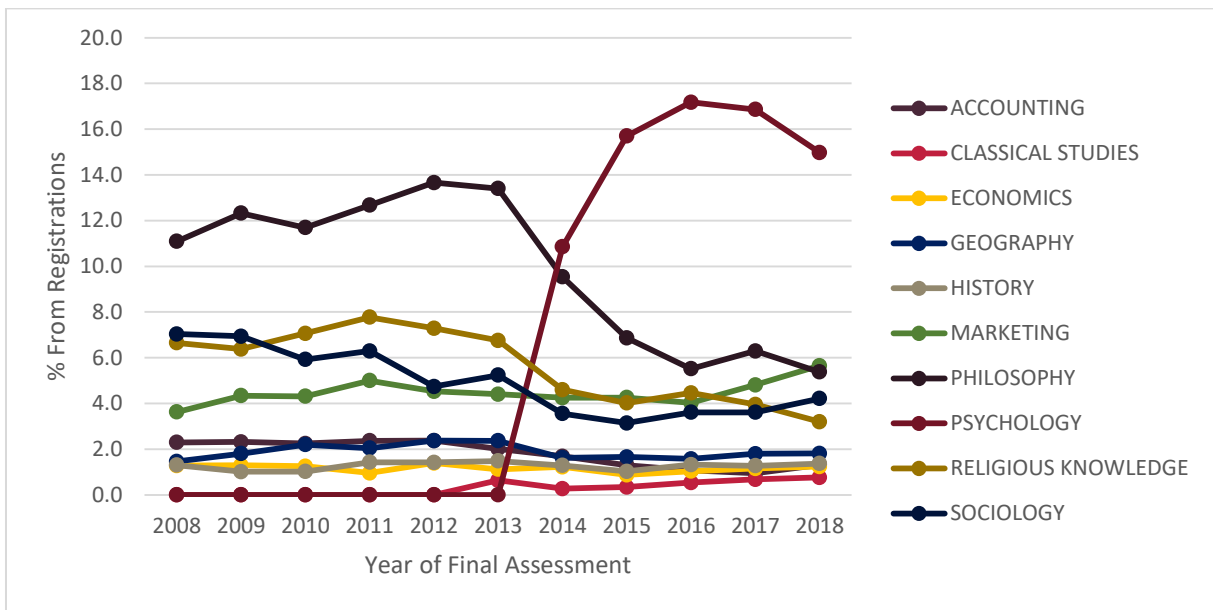


Figure 6.9: Trends in Registrations: IM Group 2 Subjects

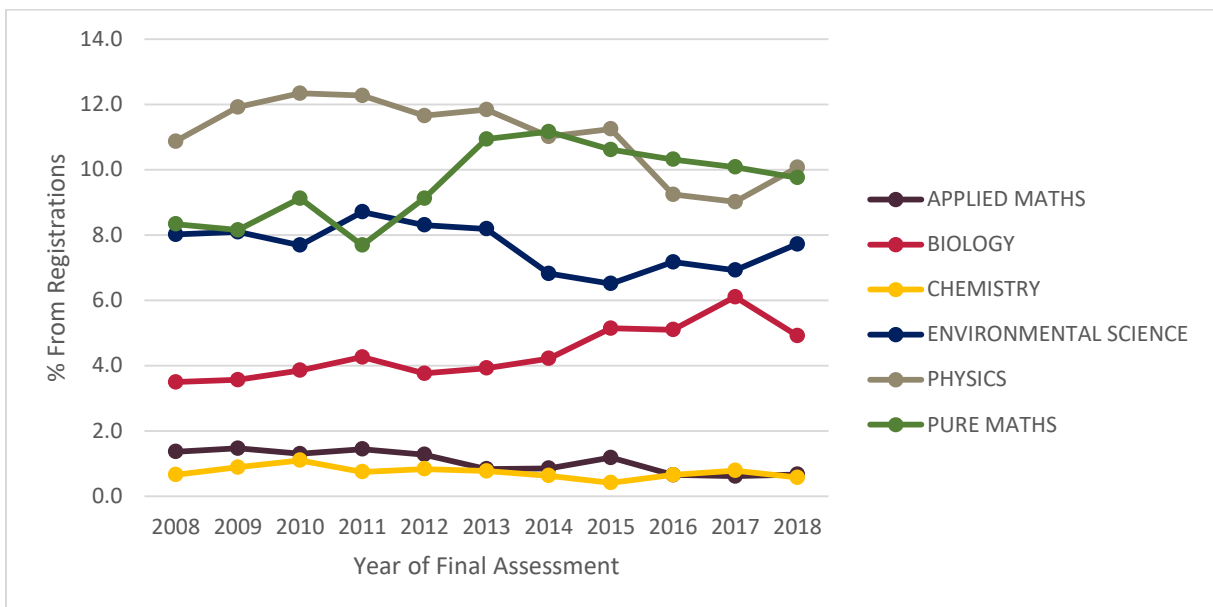


Figure 6.10: Trends in Registrations: IM Group 3 Subjects

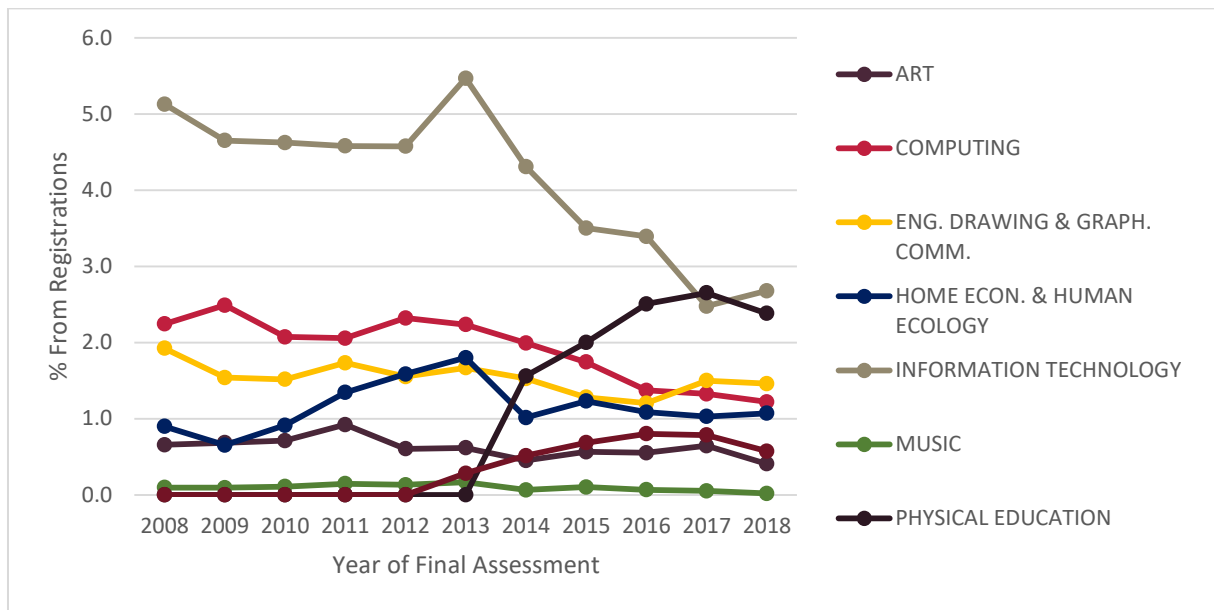


Figure 6.11: Trends in Registrations: IM Group 4 Subjects

From the figures above, the following trends are noted:

- Most Group 1 subjects at IM level have plummeted in registrations. Only registrations for IM English have increased considerably in 2018. Registrations in Maltese, Italian, and French, have changed from values of 578, 220, and 138 respectively in 2008 to 219, 72, and 86 in 2018. Spanish and German are smaller entry subjects where the number of candidates is more stable or, in the case of Spanish, generally increasing.
- The introduction of IM Psychology (Group 2) and IM Physical Education (Group 4) in 2013 appears to have had a considerable effect on other subjects at IM level. The popularity of the following IM level subjects has decreased considerably from 2013: IM English, IM Maltese, IM Philosophy, IM Religious Knowledge, IM Computing, and IM Information Technology. These shifts can be attributed to the displacement effects of new subject choices. As the popularity of AM Maltese and English have increased as from approximately 2013, a displacement from the national languages at IM level to AM level might have occurred. However, the popularity of IM Psychology and Physical Education is decreasing following relatively high peaks in popularity in their relative group.
- For IM Group 3 subjects, the popularity of most subjects changes haphazardly between years. In general, it seems more candidates are registering for IM Biology while less candidates register for IM Environmental Science, however this was reversed in 2018. Chemistry and Applied Mathematics are small entry subjects. There are no sudden drops in registrations in Group 3 subjects coinciding with the entry of IM Physical Education and IM Psychology.

The following figure shows the percentage candidates applying for IM Systems of Knowledge in the first session. Candidates need to obtain a pass in IM Systems of Knowledge to qualify

for the Matriculation Certificate. Thus, candidates who did not sit for IM Systems of Knowledge were not attempting to qualify for the Matriculation Certificate in that session of examinations. With the change in regulations in 2012, the percentage of candidates registering for IM Systems of Knowledge in the first examination session has decreased by a few percentage points.

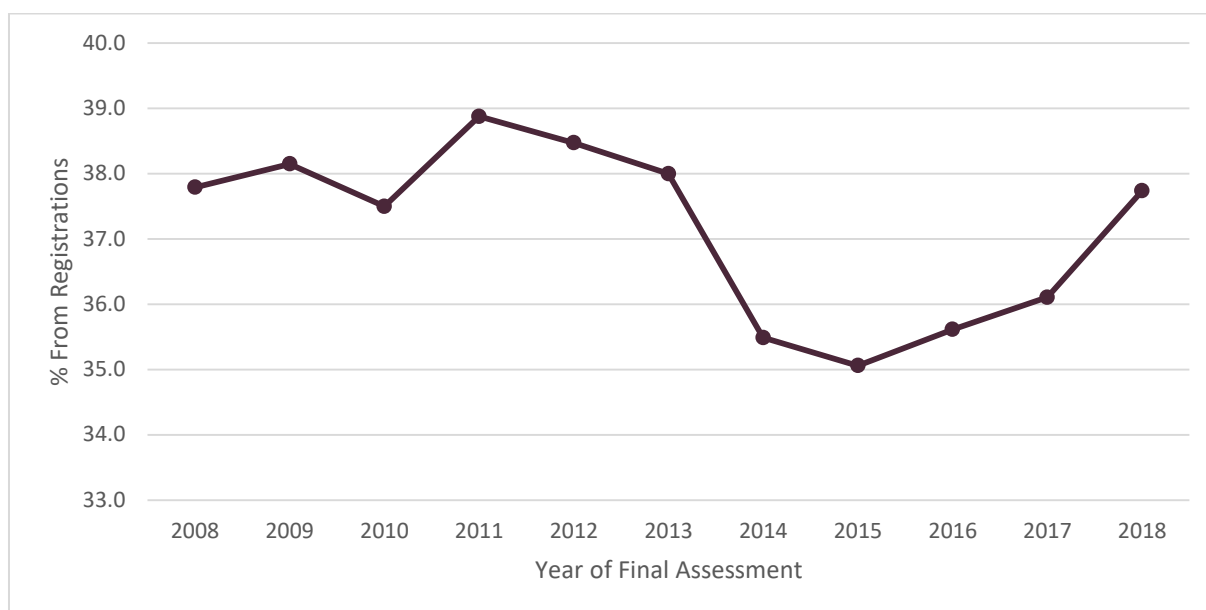


Figure 6.12: Trends in Registrations: IM Systems of Knowledge

6.03. Passes in 2017

This section brings together the main statistical results of the 2018 first and second examination sessions. These include the number of all candidates who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2018 and, separately, the number of candidates of the 2000 cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. Data for the 2001 and 1999 cohort is also shown. These are presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in 2018 (First and Second Sessions)

Cohort	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	617	945	1562
2000 Cohort	484	764	1248
2001 Cohort	91	118	209
1999 Cohort	1	3	4

When the results of the 2000 cohort in both examination sessions are aggregated, it is found that 29.3% of the 4,255 children of that cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2018. This percentage is an average result which when analysed by gender shows that the successful candidates consist of only 22.8% of males as against 35.9% of females born in 2000. The percentage of 18-year-olds qualifying for the Matriculation Certificate is similar to that of 2017 which was the highest since 2004. Figure 6.13 shows

the percentage of the 18-year-olds' cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate as from 2004.

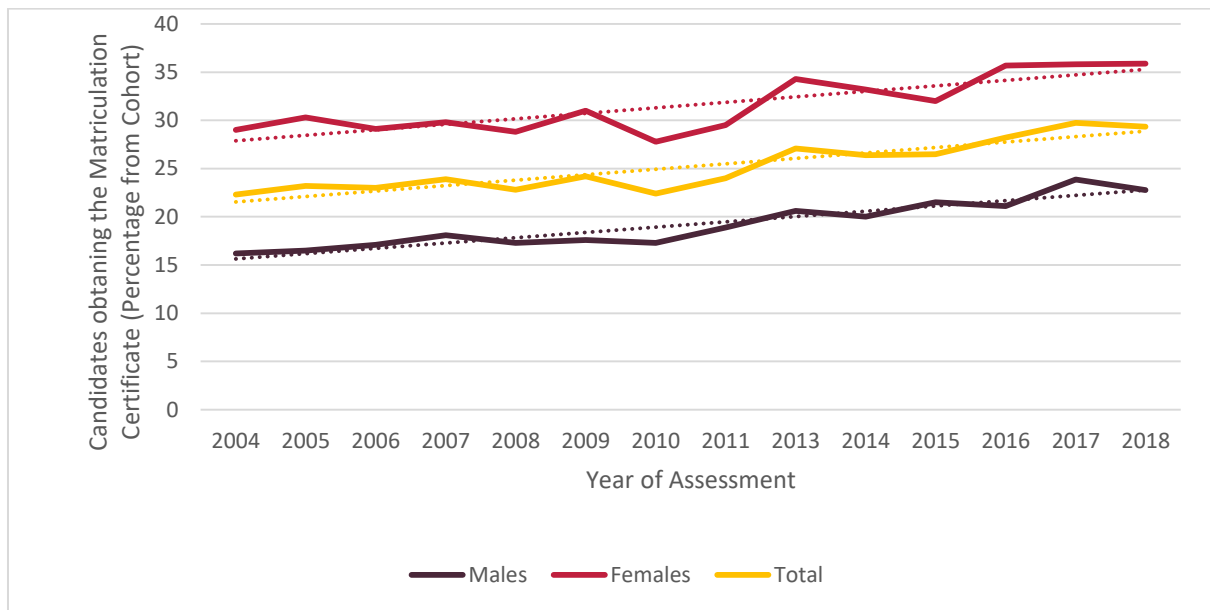


Figure 6.13: Percentage of the 18-year-old cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate, by Year of Assessment and Gender

The overall percentage of the 18-year-old cohort qualifying for the Matriculation Certificate has exceeded 25% after the change in regulations in 2012. While in the eight years before the change in regulations, an average of 23.2% of the population used to gain the necessary entry requirements for University, in the six years after the change in regulations 27.9% did so. The difference between males and females in this regard changes abruptly. In 2018, 13.1% more females than males qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. The average difference between males and females qualifying for the Matriculation Certificate as from 2004 is of 12.4% in favour of females.

Table 6.2 indicates the percentage passes in the different subjects at Advanced Level in 2018 in both examination sessions separately. Table 6.3 presents similar data for the Intermediate level subjects. The percentage pass rate is usually higher in the first session than in the second session.

Table 6.2: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2018 (First and Second Sessions)

Subject	May Session			September Session		
	Registered	Grades A-E		Registered	Grades A-E	
		N	%		N	%
Accounting	453	312	68.9	100	49	49.0
Applied Maths	4	0	0.0	0	0	
Arabic	5	5	100.0	1	1	100.0
Art	69	55	79.7	12	10	83.3
Biology	621	539	86.8	77	52	67.5
Chemistry	464	373	80.4	57	44	77.2
Computing	145	123	84.8	27	26	96.3
Economics	161	133	82.6	16	10	62.5
Engineering Drawing	1	1	100.0			
English	749	567	75.7	237	165	69.6
French	53	46	86.8	9	7	77.8
Geography	45	43	95.6	2	2	100.0
German	35	33	94.3	4	4	100.0
Graphical Communication	17	11	64.7	0	0	
History	91	70	76.9	15	12	80.0
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	124	113	91.1	16	11	68.8
Information Technology	31	24	77.4	3	2	66.7
Italian	102	78	76.5	19	10	52.6
Maltese	548	469	85.6	150	120	80.0
Marketing	427	278	65.1	182	108	59.3
Music	11	10	90.9	0	0	
Philosophy	98	72	73.5	15	10	66.7
Physics	366	306	83.6	52	45	86.5
Pure Maths	490	342	69.8	114	84	73.7
Religious Knowledge	60	35	58.3	22	11	50.0
Russian	6	6	100.0	0	0	
Sociology	197	169	85.8	51	39	76.5
Spanish	33	27	81.8	7	5	71.4
Theatre And Performance	9	8	88.9	0	0	

An analysis of Table 6.2 indicates that in Advanced level subjects the percentage of candidates obtaining Grades A to E differ substantially between subjects as shown below.

Pass rate: Grades A - E (First Session)	AM Level Subjects
90% - 100%	Arabic, Engineering Drawing, Geography, German, Home Econ. & Human Ecology, Music, Russian,
80% - 89%	Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, French, Maltese, Physics, Sociology, Spanish, Theatre And Performance,
70% - 79%	Art, English, History, Information Technology, Italian, Philosophy,
60% - 69%	Accounting, Graphical Communication, Marketing, Pure Maths,
50-59%	Religious Knowledge,
>40%	Applied Maths.

Table 6.3: Passes in Intermediate Level Subjects in 2018 (First and Second Sessions)

Subject	May Session			September Session		
	Registered	Grades A-E		Registered	Grades A-E	
		N	%		N	%
Accounting	71	40	56.3	37	29	78.4
Applied Maths	36	28	77.8	13	10	76.9
Arabic	4	3	75.0	3	2	66.7
Art	22	18	81.8	4	3	75.0
Biology	266	164	61.7	181	139	76.8
Chemistry	31	19	61.3	17	10	58.8
Classical Studies	41	29	70.7	15	13	86.7
Computing	66	53	80.3	15	11	73.3
Economics	67	50	74.6	18	10	55.6
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	79	60	75.9	40	27	67.5
English	889	731	82.2	711	517	72.7
Environmental Science	418	313	74.9	196	154	78.6
French	86	74	86.0	39	36	92.3
Geography	98	72	73.5	49	35	71.4
German	39	36	92.3	36	34	94.4
History	74	60	81.1	29	20	69.0
Home Econ. & Human Ecology	58	51	87.9	35	31	88.6
Information Technology	145	131	90.3	21	18	85.7
Italian	72	57	79.2	39	30	76.9
Latin	1	1	100.0			
Maltese	219	177	80.8	116	91	78.4
Marketing	306	248	81.0	206	146	70.9
Music	1	1	100.0	2	1	50.0
Philosophy	291	221	75.9	115	83	72.2
Physical Education	129	100	77.5	55	43	78.2
Physics	545	436	80.0	156	106	67.9
Psychology	811	577	71.1	346	193	55.8
Pure Maths	528	343	65.0	246	166	67.5
Religious Knowledge	173	113	65.3	108	52	48.1
Russian	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
Sociology	228	164	71.9	115	87	75.7
Spanish	27	23	85.2	7	5	71.4
Systems Of Knowledge	2043	1380	67.5	665	385	57.9
Theatre And Performance	31	16	51.6	9	4	44.4

An analysis of Table 6.3 indicates that in Intermediate Level subjects the percentage of candidates obtaining Grades A to E differs substantially between subjects as shown below. No subject had a pass rate lower than 50%.

Pass rate: Grades A - E (First Session)	IM Level Subjects
90% - 100%	German, Information Technology, Latin, Music, Russian,
80% - 89%	Art, Computing, English, French, History, Home Econ. & Human Ecology, Maltese, Marketing, Spanish,
70% - 79%	Applied Maths, Arabic, Classical Studies, Economics, Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm., Environmental Science, Geography, Italian, Philosophy, Physical Education, Psychology, Sociology,
60% - 69%	Biology, Chemistry, Pure Maths, Religious Knowledge, Systems Of Knowledge,
50-59%	Accounting, Theatre And Performance.

6.04. Revision of Papers

The numbers of candidates applying for Revision of Papers from 2004 to 2018 are shown in Table 6.4. The table that follows, Table 6.5, shows the percentage of these applicants who had their grade revised. The two figures that follow represent this data graphically.

Table 6.4: Percentage Applications for Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Year	First Session		Second Session	
	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)
2004	8.1	3.9	7.3	5.9
2005	7.7	3.5	6.8	7.2
2006	5.9	2.7	9.6	8.0
2007	6.8	3.6	7.0	5.8
2008	5.5	4.4	5.7	4.3
2009	5.2	3.0	6.6	4.2
2010	6.2	4.1	7.3	6.3
2011	7.4	4.0	7.4	6.2
2013	8.2	4.0	2.9	4.2
2014	7.5	3.5	7.1	6.0
2015	8.5	3.1	5.5	2.7
2016	7.9	3.0	4.8	3.4
2017	6.9	3.1	8.2	5.9
2018	10.3	7.4	6.6	6.9

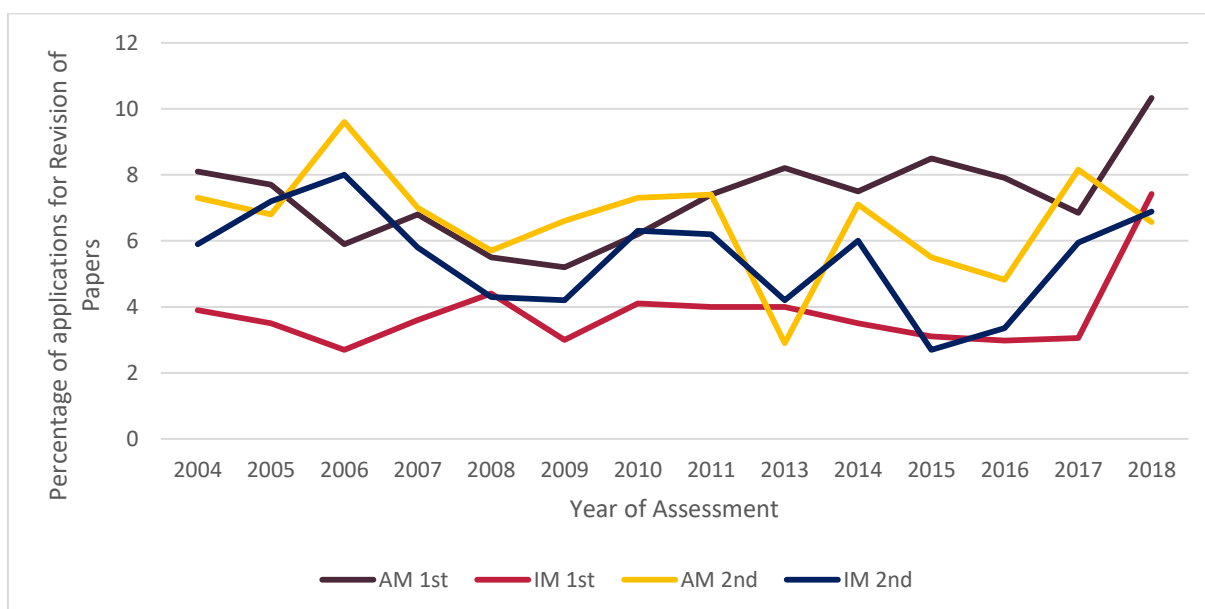


Figure 6.14: Percentage Applications for Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Figure 6.14 suggests that the percentage of candidates applying for Revision of Papers has followed no particular trend across the years from 2004 to 2018. Drops and peaks along the years seem rather random. However, in 2018 a sharp increase in the percentage requests for Revision of Papers is noted, especially for IM and AM subjects following the First session. Usually, the percentage of candidates applying for Revision of Papers is higher for Advanced Matriculation subjects.

Table 6.5: Percentage Upgrades from Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Year	First Session		Second Session	
	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)
2004	4.0	4.6	1.3	3.1
2005	2.5	3.0	4.8	1.3
2006	2.9	6.6	0.9	22.8
2007	2.5	8.4	2.7	0
2008	2.1	3.1	6.0	0
2009	4.9	4.5	3.4	2.4
2010	4.9	3.5	1.4	7.5
2011	3.5	3.0	2.9	1.5
2013	4.3	5.8	0	0
2014	4.3	5.0	0	1.6
2015	1.0	7.7	2.8	11.4
2016	3.0	7.2	4.8	2.5
2017	3.6	7.9	0	10.5
2018	2.1	6.7	0	3.6

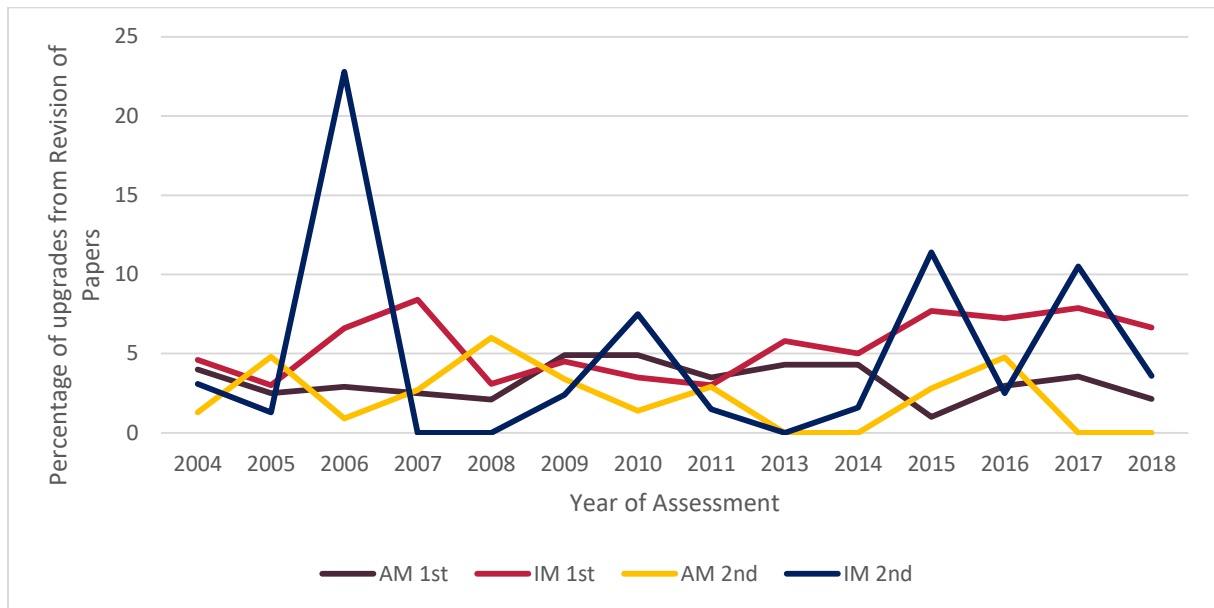


Figure 6.15: Percentage Upgrades from Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Figure 6.16 suggests that the percentage of upgrades from Revision of Papers has also followed no particular trend across the years from 2004 to 2018. Increased percentage of upgrades in IM subjects for the 2006 and 2010 second sessions roughly coincide with an increased percentage of applications for Revision of Papers in these sessions (Table 6.4). The increased percentage of upgrades in IM subjects for 2017 second session is explained by a number of upgrades resulting from MATSEC’s internal quality assurance exercises. These upgrades, although not a direct result of Revision of Papers, are listed as such. The percentage of upgrades from Revision of Papers ranges from 0% (six instances) to 22.8% (IM 2nd 2006). Thus, although there was an increase in the percentage requests for Revision of Papers in 2018, the percentage of upgrades is comparable to previous years and smaller than 2017.

7. CONCLUSION

This report has been produced with the intention of providing valid and reliable information about various aspects of the 2018 Matriculation Examination sessions. The emphasis is on both the presentation of the information as well as on important analyses that are possible as a result of this information. The report also makes it possible for individuals and institutions to carry out further analyses on the data presented. This report may also be used as a basis of an evaluation of the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations that has been in operation for more than twenty years to date. Trends from the change in regulations in 2012 are also visible.

Comments on this report and any recommendations on improving this or similar documents published by the MATSEC Support Unit are welcome. These are to be addressed to Mr. Gilbert John Zahra, Principal Assessment Research and Development Officer, MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta on Tel: 2340 3965 or email: gilbert.j.zahra@um.edu.mt.

APPENDIX A

Time Tables for the 2018 MATSEC Examination Sessions

May 2018 Session Timetable

	ADVANCED MATRICULATION FIRST SESSION		INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION FIRST SESSION		SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MAIN SESSION	
	09:00	16:00	09:00	16:00	09:00	16:00
	Wednesday 25 April	Marketing I	Marketing II		Marketing	European Studies I/ Textiles & Design I
Thursday 26 April	Economics I	Home Economics I	Economics		Economics I	Home Economics I
Friday 27 April	Economics II/ Theatre and Performance I	Home Economics II		Home Economics	Economics II	Home Economics II
Saturday 28 April	Physics I	Physics II	Environmental Science	Physics	Physics I	Physics II
Monday 30 April		Russian I/Spanish (Lit.) (15:00)	Systems of Knowledge	Spanish (Lit.) (16:00)		Design & Technology II
Wednesday 2 May	Theatre and Performance II	Eng Draw/Graph Comm I	Theatre and Performance	Eng Draw & Graph Comm	Graphical Communication I	Graphical Communication II
Thursday 3 May	History I, Eng Draw/Graph Comm II	French IV & I	History	French	History I	French I
Friday 4 May	History II	French II	Physical Education		Physical Education II	French II
Saturday 5 May	Pure Mathematics I	History III	Pure Mathematics		Mathematics I	Mathematics II
Monday 7 May	Pure Mathematics II	Biology I		Biology	History II	Biology I
Tuesday 8 May	Maltese I/Applied Mathematics I	Arabic III/Russian II/ Italian I Part I (15:00)	Applied Mathematics	Italian (Lit.) (17:00)	Ethics II	Biology II
Wednesday 9 May	Biology II	Accounting I			Commerce I	Greek I/Russian I/ Class. Cult. & Civil. I
Thursday 10 May	Arabic II	Biology III	Arabic		Arabic II/Commerce II	Accounting I/ Business Studies I
Friday 11 May	Russian III	Accounting II	Russian	Accounting		Accounting II/ Business Studies II
Saturday 12 May	Maltese II/Applied Mathematics II	Maltese III	Maltese		Maltese I	Maltese II
Monday 14 May	Computing I/Info Tech I	French III			Computing I	English Literature I
Tuesday 15 May	Computing II/Info Tech II	Philosophy I	Computing/Info Tech		Computing II	
Wednesday 16 May	German I	German II/Greek I	German	German (Lit.) (15:00)	German I	English Literature II
Thursday 17 May	Philosophy II	German III/Greek II	Philosophy	Greek	Greek II/Russian II/ Class. Cult. & Civil. II	German II
Friday 18 May		Italian II	Psychology	Italian		Italian I
Saturday 19 May	English I	English II			English Language I	English Language II
Monday 21 May	Geography I	English III	Geography	English	Geography I	Italian II
Tuesday 22 May	Geography II	Geography III			Geography II	Environmental Studies I
Wednesday 23 May	Chemistry I	Italian III	Chemistry		Chemistry I	
Thursday 24 May	Chemistry II	Italian IV				Environmental Studies II
Friday 25 May	Sociology I	Sociology II		Sociology	Chemistry II	Social Studies I
Saturday 26 May	Religious Knowledge I	Religious Knowledge II	Religious Knowledge		Religious Knowledge I	Religious Knowledge II
Monday 28 May	Sociology III	Music I			Music I (Part I)	Social Studies II
Tuesday 29 May	Spanish I	Spanish II/Latin I	Spanish	Latin/Classical Studies	Music I (Part II)	Music I (Part II) (cont.)
Wednesday 30 May	Music III (performance/composition)	Music II (Part II)		Music (Part II)	Spanish I/Latin I	Music II
Thursday 31 May	Spanish III/Latin II	Art III	Music (Parts I & III)	Music (Part III cont.)	Spanish II/Latin II	Art II
Saturday 2 June	Art I	Art II	Art		Art I	Art I (cont.)

May 2018 Session Timetable

Oral Examinations

Advanced Matriculation Orals

English	Tuesday 20 March
	Wednesday 21 March
	Thursday 22 March
	Monday 26 March
	Tuesday 27 March
French	Thursday 5 April
Maltese	Monday 16 April
	Tuesday 17 April
	Wednesday 18 April
Thursday 19 April	
Italian	Saturday 21 April
Arabic/German/Spanish/Russian	Monday 23 April
Music II Part I	Friday 1 June

Intermediate Matriculation Orals

English	Friday 6 April
	Monday 9 April
	Tuesday 10 April
	Wednesday 11 April
Thursday 12 April	
Italian	Saturday 7 April
Maltese	Saturday 14 April
Arabic/German/Russian/Spanish	Tuesday 24 April
French	Wednesday 25 April

SEC Listening Comprehension/Dictation

English	Saturday 17 March
German/Russian	Tuesday 20 March
Arabic/Spanish	Wednesday 21 March
Italian	Saturday 24 March
French	Saturday 7 April

SEC Reading & Conversation

Arabic/German/Russian/Spanish	Thursday 22 March
	Monday 26 March
	Tuesday 27 March
Maltese/Italian	Thursday 5 April
	Friday 6 April
	Monday 9 April
	Tuesday 10 April
	Wednesday 11 April
Thursday 12 April	
English/French	Friday 13 April
	Monday 16 April
	Monday 17 April
	Wednesday 18 April
	Thursday 19 April
Friday 20 April	

Practical Examinations

Advanced Matriculation Practicals

Physics	Friday 1 June
Theatre and Performance	Monday 4 June
	Tuesday 5 June
	Wednesday 6 June
	Friday 8 June
	Monday 11 June
Tuesday 12 June	
Wednesday 13 June	
Thursday 14 June	
Biology	Wednesday 6 June
Chemistry	Thursday 14 June

Intermediate Matriculation Practicals

Theatre and Performance	Monday 4 June
	Tuesday 5 June
	Wednesday 6 June
	Friday 8 June
	Monday 11 June
	Tuesday 12 June
	Wednesday 13 June
	Thursday 14 June

Physical Education Activities

Intermediate Matriculation Activities

All activities	Monday 9 April
	Tuesday 10 April
	Monday 16 April
	Tuesday 17 April

SEC Activities

Athletics, Games, Gym and Dance	Monday 9 April
	Tuesday 10 April
	Wednesday 11 April
	Thursday 12 April
	Friday 13 April
Monday 16 April	
Tuesday 17 April	
Swimming	Friday 1 June
	Monday 4 June
	Wednesday 6 June
Friday 8 June	

SEC Physical Education

SEC P.E. candidates are to indicate their choice of activities on the on-line form.

Following registration, candidates will be informed individually about:

- SEC Listening Comprehension/Dictation (Group Examinations)
- SEC Reading, Conversation, Role Play, etc. (Individual Oral Examinations)
- SEC Physical Education Activities
- Advanced Matriculation Oral Examinations
- Advanced Matriculation Music Oral/Aural examinations
- Advanced Matriculation Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Theatre and Performance Practicals
- Intermediate Matriculation Physical Education Activities
- Intermediate Matriculation Theatre and Performance Practicals

Candidates will receive their Index number and Accommodation for Oral and Written Examinations in due course.

May 2018 Session Notices

Advanced Matriculation

Heads of School are to send the **school-based assessment marks** for **Computing, Information Technology, Geography** and **Home Economics and Human Ecology** to **MATSEC** by **Friday 16 March 2018**.

Moderation of coursework in schools will take place between **Monday 26 March 2018** and **Friday 20 April 2018** both dates inclusive.

All candidates sitting for **Art** and **Private candidates** sitting for **Computing, Information Technology, Geography** and **Home Economics and Human Ecology** are to present their project to **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Centre Victoria, Gozo** by **Friday 16 March 2018** from **08:00 – 12:00** or **14:00 – 16:00**.

The starting points of the **AM Art Thematic Project Work** will be published in the **Notices section of the MATSEC website** by **4 April 2018**. Candidates are to hand in this work **at the end of the AM ART Paper I (Extended Thematic Project) examination session in a folder**.

Candidates sitting for **Music** are to present **two copies of the composition** (if chosen) to **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Centre Victoria, Gozo** by **Friday 27 April 2018**.

Reference should be made to the respective syllabi for further details about each subject including folders required.

Coursework Notice

All coursework submitted by private candidates will be assessed by the Board of Examiners for the subject. With the exception of **IM** and **AM Art**, it is to be presented in a special folder obtainable from **MATSEC**. All candidates may be called for an interview regarding their coursework. Interviews will be held between **Monday 26 March 2018** and **Tuesday 24 April 2018** both dates inclusive.

Specific dates will be scheduled per subject (where applicable). Interviews related to a particular subject cannot be scheduled outside the dates pertaining to the subject concerned.

Coursework presented to **MATSEC** is to be **collected between Thursday 23 August 2018** and **Friday 24 August 2018** from **08:00 – 12:30**.

The **MATSEC Board** reserves the right to keep any of the works submitted by candidates.

Intermediate Matriculation

Heads of School are to send the **school-based assessment marks** for **Computing, Information Technology** and **Systems of Knowledge** to **MATSEC** by **Friday 16 March 2018**. **Moderation of coursework in schools** will take place between **Monday 26 March 2018** and **Friday 20 April 2018** both dates inclusive.

All candidates sitting for **Art**, and **Private candidates** sitting for **Computing, Information Technology** and **Systems of Knowledge** are to present their project to **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Centre Victoria, Gozo** by **Friday 16 March 2018** from **08:00 – 12:00** or **14:00 – 16:00**.

IM Art candidates are to indicate whether for **Part II Section A – Work from Observation** – they will be choosing **Option (i) Still-life with Man-made and Natural forms**, or **Option (ii) the Human Figure**. Candidates will receive a form on which to indicate their choice from the Examinations Department.

The starting points of the **IM Art Thematic Project Work** will be published in the **Notices section of the MATSEC website** by **4 April 2018**. Candidates are to present this work on **Monday 4 June 2018** from **08:00 – 12:00** or **14:00 – 16:00** at **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Centre Victoria, Gozo**.

Candidates sitting for **Music** are to present **two copies of the composition** (if chosen) to **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Centre Victoria, Gozo** by **Friday 27 April 2018**.

Reference should be made to the respective syllabi for further details about each subject including folders required.

Access Arrangements

Candidates are to apply for Exam Access Arrangements by **Friday 17 November 2017**. **Late applications for Exam Access Arrangements will only be accepted with late registrations on the 8, 9 and 10 January 2018**. **No applications for Exam Access Arrangements beyond the 10 January 2018 will be accepted** even if applicants are allowed to register for the May session.

MATSEC WILL NOT MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENTS IN CASE OF CLASHES WITH EXAMINATIONS OF OTHER BOARDS. COLLEGES/SCHOOLS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE NOTE OF EXAMINATION DATES BEFORE STAGING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR CANDIDATES SITTING FOR MATSEC EXAMINATIONS ON THE PRESCRIBED DATES AS ALTERATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. **REGISTRATIONS WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 6 NOVEMBER 2017 AND 17 NOVEMBER 2017.** TO REGISTER, CANDIDATES ARE TO **APPLY ONLINE ON www.exams.gov.mt** Request for any Changes/Cancellations in application will be accepted between the 20 and 24 November 2017. Changes to registrations after the 24 November will incur additional charges.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON 8, 9 AND 10 JANUARY 2018. ADDITIONAL FEES APPLY.

A CANDIDATES' HANDBOOK IS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM: <http://bit.ly/2yvavof>

Secondary Education Certificate

Heads of School are to send the **school-based assessment marks** for the subjects outlined below to **MATSEC** by **Friday 16 March 2018**. In due course, each respective school will be sent sheets for the candidates' assessment marks to be filled in. **Moderation of coursework in schools** will take place between **Monday 26 March 2018** and **Friday 20 April 2018** both dates inclusive.

Private candidates are to present their coursework for the subjects outlined below to **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Centre Victoria, Gozo** between **Monday 26 February 2018** and **Friday 16 March 2018** both dates inclusive from **8:00 – 12:00** or **14:00 – 16:00**.

Subjects:

Art | Biology | Business Studies | Chemistry | Computer Studies | Design and Technology | Environmental Studies | Ethics | European Studies | Geography | Home Economics | Physical Education | Physics and Textiles & Design

SEC Art candidates are to indicate whether for **Paper I – Work from Observation** – they will be choosing **Option (a) Still-life, composed of Man-made and Natural forms**, or **Option (b) the Human Figure**. Candidates are to indicate their choice on the online application choice at the time of registration.

The **Art General Themes** will be published in the **Notices section of the MATSEC website** by the **11 May 2018**

September 2018 Session Timetable

	ADVANCED MATRICULATION SECOND SESSION		INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION SECOND SESSION		SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE SUPPLEMENTARY SESSION	
	09:00	16:00	09:00	16:00	09:00	16:00
Thursday 30 Aug	Biology/Chemistry/Physics Practical Exams (am/pm)		Physical Education Practical Exam (am/pm)		Biology/Chemistry/Physics Paper I	Biology/Chemistry/Physics Paper II
Friday 31 August			Group I Subjects	Group II Subjects		
Saturday 1 September					Mathematics I	Mathematics II
Monday 3 September	Paper I (All Subjects)			Systems of Knowledge		
Tuesday 4 September	Paper II (All Subjects)				Maltese I	Maltese II
Wednesday 5 September	Paper III (All Subjects) (where applicable)				English Language I	English Language II
Thursday 6 September			Group III Subjects	Group IV Subjects		

ADVANCED MATRICULATION NOTICES		
Subject/Paper	Date	Time
Italian		
Paper I (Listening Comprehension and Dictation)	Monday 3 September	To be announced
Paper II	Monday 3 September	To be announced
Paper III	Tuesday 4 September	09:00
Paper IV	Wednesday 5 September	09:00
French		
Paper IV (Dictation)	Wednesday 29 August	To be announced
Spanish		
Listening Comprehension	Wednesday 29 August	To be announced
German		
Listening Comprehension	Tuesday 4 September	To be announced
Music		
Paper 1 Part I and II	Monday 3 September	To be announced
Paper III	Wednesday 5 September	To be announced
TWO copies of the music composition (if chosen) are to be presented to MATSEC or the Examinations Centre, Victoria Gozo by Friday 24 August from 08:00 – 12:00		

INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION NOTICES		
Subject/Paper	Date	Time
German		
Listening Comprehension	Tuesday 28 August	To be announced
Italian		
Listening Comprehension	Tuesday 28 August	To be announced
Spanish		
Listening Comprehension	Tuesday 28 August	To be announced
Music		
TWO copies of the music composition (if chosen) are to be presented to MATSEC or the Examinations Centre, Victoria Gozo by Friday 24 August from 08:00 – 12:00		

GROUP SUBJECTS	
Group I	
Maltese	Greek
Arabic	Italian
English	Latin
French	Russian
German	Spanish
Group II	
Accounting	Marketing
Classical Studies*	Philosophy
Economics	Psychology*
Geography	Religious Knowledge
History	Sociology
Group III	
Applied Mathematics (Mechanics)	Environmental Science*
Biology	Physics
Chemistry	Pure Mathematics
Group IV	
Art	Information Technology
Computing	Music
Engineering Drawing	Physical Education*
Graphical Communication	Theatre and Performance
Home Economics and Human Ecology	
Systems of Knowledge*	

September 2018 Session Timetable

Advanced Matriculation

Orals

Arabic/English/French/German/Italian/Maltese/Russian/Spanish	Wednesday 29 August
Music II Part I	Friday 7 September

Practicals

Theatre and Performance	Friday 7 September
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Art | All candidates

Presentation of Coursework (Portfolio, Personal Study and Visual Journal) by **Monday 13 August 2018** at **MATSEC** or **Examination Centre in Victoria, Gozo**.

Starting points of **Thematic Project Work** will be published in **Notices section of MATSEC website** by **Tuesday 24 July 2018**.
Candidates are to hand in this work **at the end of the AM Art I (Extended Thematic Project) examination session in a folder**.

Computing, Information Technology, Geography, Home Economics and Human Ecology | Private Candidates
Presentation of Project by **Monday 13 August 2018** at **MATSEC** or the **Examination Centre in Victoria, Gozo**.

Coursework/Project Interviews: Wednesday 22 August 2018 – Friday 14 September 2018 both dates inclusive. All candidates may be called for an interview. Specific dates will be scheduled per subject where applicable. Interviews related to a particular subject cannot be scheduled outside the dates pertaining to the subject concerned

Secondary Education Certificate

Biology, Chemistry, Physics | Private Candidates
Presentation of Project by **Monday 13 August 2018** at **MATSEC** or the **Examination Centre in Victoria, Gozo**.

Coursework/Project Interviews: Wednesday 22 August 2018 – Friday 14 September 2018 both dates inclusive. All candidates may be called for an interview. Specific dates will be scheduled per subject where applicable. Interviews related to a particular subject cannot be scheduled outside the dates pertaining to the subject concerned

CANDIDATES REGISTERING FOR AN EXAMINATION FOR THE FIRST TIME WILL BE TREATED AS PRIVATE CANDIDATES. THEREFORE ALL COURSEWORK/PROJECT WORK IS TO BE PRESENTED TO MATSEC OR THE EXAMINATIONS CENTRE, VICTORIA GOZO AS INDICATED ABOVE.

Coursework presented to **MATSEC** is to be collected during the week starting **Monday 29 October 2018** from **08:00 – 12:00** and **14:00 – 16:00**.

Intermediate Matriculation

Orals

English	Tuesday 28 August
	Saturday 1 September
Arabic/French/German/Italian/Maltese/Russian/Spanish	Tuesday 28 August
Music PI and PIII	Friday 7 September

Practicals

Theatre and Performance	Friday 7 September
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Art | All candidates

Presentation of Coursework (Portfolio, Personal Study and Visual Journal) by **Monday 13 August 2018** at **MATSEC** or **Examination Centre in Victoria, Gozo**.

Starting points of **Thematic Project Work** will be published in **Notices section of MATSEC website** by **Friday 10 August 2018**.
Candidates are to present this work on Friday 7 September 2018 from 08:00 - 12:00 at **MATSEC** or the **Examination Centre in Victoria, Gozo**.

Computing, Information Technology, Systems of Knowledge | Private Candidates
Presentation of Project by **Monday 13 August 2018** at **MATSEC** or **Examination Centre in Victoria, Gozo**.

Coursework/Project Interviews: Wednesday 22 August 2018 – Friday 14 September 2018 both dates inclusive. All candidates may be called for an interview. Specific dates will be scheduled per subject where applicable. Interviews related to a particular subject cannot be scheduled outside the dates pertaining to the subject concerned

